



ISSUE 14 – OCTOBER 2024

Continuation Project Update



Contrary to some media reports, Hunter Valley Operations is continuing to progress its proposal to continue mining (HVO Continuation Project).

The NSW Government has asked for more information as part of its assessment of our proposal. We are doing additional modelling

and mine planning to provide this information. The Federal Government is also assessing our proposal. It makes sense for it to have this information before continuing their assessment. The administrative process for halting its assessment is for HVO to withdraw its referrals for the proposal.

We are also applying to the NSW Government for a short extension of our existing approval to operate - until December 31, 2026.

There'll be no change to how we operate during this period. This extension gives us time to provide both governments with additional information about our proposal and for them to consider it and to complete their assessments. It safeguards jobs and gives certainty to our contractors, community partners, and the businesses that rely on us for work.

If the NSW Government agrees to consider our request, we will submit a formal application and a report. The Government will publicly exhibit the report to seek community feedback as it decides whether to grant the time extension.

We appreciate the significant community support for our proposal to continue mining. You can find out more at our community information sessions (see below) or at www.hvo.com.au/continuation.

Dave Foster, General Manager

YOU'RE INVITED - COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Have a chat about any aspect of HVO's operations including our proposal to continue mining

Wednesday 23 October, 4 - 6pm, Jerrys Plains School of Arts Hall.

Saturday 26 October, 8- 10 am, 880 Maison Dieu Road, Maison Dieu

Apprentice Lilly-Jane a rugby league star in the making



First year apprentice Lilly-Jane Williams is an inspiring and talented trail blazer at work and on the sporting field. The 16 year old Singleton resident is living her dream of working as a plant mechanic. She also dreams of one day playing rugby league in the NRLW.

"I'm really proud, happy and grateful to have been selected from all of the applicants," Lilly-Jane said.

"HVO's size makes it a great place to be an apprentice. There's so much equipment of all shapes and sizes that I will work on. We have the world's largest excavator at HVO. It is crazy that I get to work on it."

Lilly-Jane is proving to be a talented sports woman. She started playing Aussie Rules and was selected as a Sydney Swans Junior before switching codes.

At age 15 she was selected in the U17 Upper Hunter regional rugby league team - Northern Tigers - in her first year playing the sport. She then scored a development scholarship with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs which hopes to have an NRLW team next year. Her team won the grand final in this year's Lisa Fiaola Cup.

"I really love my job. My focus is getting a mining trade job after my apprenticeship. But if I can combine my work with playing NRLW that would be amazing."

HVO has 12 first year apprentices and 38 in total. Young men and women who are gaining qualifications and skills for their future without having to leave the region.

Responsible mining

First cultural burn for culturally significant site



Our first ever cultural burn was a success. In September, local Aboriginal organisations Wonnarua Mine Rehabilitation Services and Bindelong Corporation carried out a 2 ha burn of a significant cultural heritage site known as CM CD1 to remove thick grass and weeds and rejuvenate the land. The burn is more culturally appropriate and effective than clearing with hand tools. More cultural burns will be planned in the future.

New firebreaks ahead of bush fire season

HVO installed another 30km of boundary firebreaks in July and August. We maintain 4m wide firebreaks at our boundaries to help protect our site and neighbouring land from bushfire. We keep large trees and habitat trees but remove mid-storey and groundcover vegetation. This is on top of regular slashing alongside roads surrounding the mine. We assess bushfire and fuel load risks every winter to take necessary action ahead of the bushfire season.

Annual aerial seeding complete



As part of our controls to minimise dust we completed our annual aerial seeding program in May.

Using a single propeller plane, we seeded 395ha of mined land that's awaiting rehabilitation with almost 14 tonnes of a specially selected pasture seed mix. The seed provides green cover quickly with opportunities for germination across all seasons.

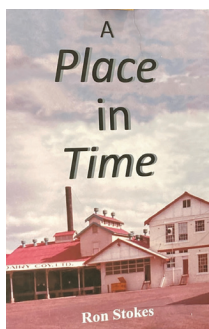
Unearthing opportunity

First ever First Nations Pathways trainees start at HVO



Four First Nation trainees started a work experience program with HVO at the end of July. Jawahn Gordon, Erin Nean, Brodie Madden and Maricky Cooper are the first HVO trainees under the First Nations Pathway Program. The other trainees have been placed at Glencore sites in the Valley. The program helps local Indigenous people to gain permanent jobs in mining.

New book on history of Singleton Dairy Company



HVO joined three other local mines to help print a new book on the history of the Singleton Co-Operative Dairy Company.

A Place in Time is the fourth local history book by Singleton resident Ron Stokes with help from his wife Joan.

Proceeds from the book's sales will purchase equipment for Singleton Hospital. You can buy the book from Kirkwoods Produce, Singleton Historical Museum, GIO Singleton and Burdekin Park Pharmacy.

PCYC Book Fair raises \$12,000 for youth programs

Book lovers got some great bargains and Singleton PCYC raised more than \$12,000 for its youth programs at the club's annual Book Fair in August. HVO covered the event costs for a third year running to maximise proceeds. A separate fair for DVDs, CDs and games was held on September 21 and 22 at the PCYC in High Street.





Supporting the community

2024 Round 1 HVO community grants

Upper and Lower Hunter communities will benefit from HVO's Round 1 community grants funding of \$54,000 to 20 not for profit organisations.

- Singleton PCYC
- Cessnock City Council
- Singleton Public School
- Hunter Valley Camp Draft
- Mark Hughes Foundation
- Sunnyfield
- Maitland Tenambit BMX Club
- St Catherines Catholic College
- Upper Hunter Homeless
- NSW Scout Association
- Sandy Hollow Public School
- Business Singleton
- Australian Stock Horse Association
- Maitland Steam & Antique Machinery Association
- Singleton Neighbourhood Centre
- Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Muswellbrook High
- Cessnock City Council
- Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter
- Australian Stock Horse Association
- Singleton Public Library
- Sunnyfield
- Denman Public School

Since 2018, we've given \$500,000 to 110 local projects or events. This is on top of our charity partnerships, workplace giving program and an annual \$30,000 for school readiness programs at Jerrys Plains Public School.

We'll announce Round 2 grant recipients in November.

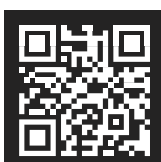
Kits for preschoolers to spark interest in science



We've funded Singleton Public Library's new Little Bang Science program to inspire local preschoolers to think critically and have a lifelong interest in STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The first, free, hands-on session for kids aged 3 - 5 was held on Friday 4 October.

To keep up to date with HVO news, scan the QR code or visit hvo.com.au/news



Singleton Art Prize



HVO Mining Manager David Mitchell at the Singleton Art Prize

Congratulations to Newcastle artist John Edge whose work "Still Life by Eggs" won the 2024 HVO Still Life category at the annual Singleton Art Prize. Donna Gilbertson was runner up for "Lost and Found". Gaye Shields was highly commended for "Pickled Pears" and Hayley Mclachlan was commended for "Mirror Image".

HVO again supported the event through its community grants program. Mining Manager David Mitchell (pictured) attended the July 26 opening night at the Singleton Civic Centre. HVO's second year apprentices helped set up and pack up the event.

There were more than 500 entries, including the highest number of first-time entrants in more than 10 years.

The Rotary Club of Singleton on Hunter event supports artists and gives local people the chance to see great art. Rotary takes a commission from event artwork sales to fund local projects.

Curtains raised at Jerrys Plains Hall



The Jerrys Plains Community Hall now has new stage curtains thanks to \$18,000 in funding from HVO and neighbouring mines United Wambo, Ashton and Mt Thorley Warkworth.

Cessnock Our Bushland Festival



People from Cessnock and nearby towns enjoyed some free nature themed activities at Cessnock City Council's three-day Our Bushland Festival.

The festivities included a new outdoor cinema event, and guided tours of local bushland after dark and the night sky. The final event was a family day of fun, food and adventure at Poppethead Park in Kitchener.

The event celebrates the area's unique flora and fauna, natural beauty and biodiversity. HVO supported the event for the first time through its community grants program. One program theme is enhancing our region's environment.

Muswellbrook TV & Movie Nostalgia Festival



Upper Hunter residents and visitors took a trip down film and TV memory lane at the Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 2024 TV & Movie Nostalgia Festival on September 7.

There were exhibits of TV shows, films and cars for every decade from the 1960s to today. HVO supported the 2000 to 2009 exhibit.

We supported this festival and last year's Great Cattle Dog Muster because they are fun events for local people and bring visitors to boost the local economy.

FREE Neighbour water filter or water tank clean

HVO offers a free under-sink water filter kit or water tank cleaning to neighbours within 4km of our mining boundary. Call **0455 782 292** to register your interest.

Engineering company wins HVO Singleton Business Award



Congratulations to Morgan Engineering NSW for taking out the HVO Excellence in Innovation Award at the 2024 Singleton Business Awards in July. The McDougalls Hill based company took home two other awards and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for winning the innovation award three years running.

HVO General Manager Dave Foster presented the award. Dave thanked Business Singleton for again putting on a great event to recognise the many outstanding local businesses who give so much to the community. This year's awards were the biggest in their 33-year history. There were 52 businesses and individual finalists from 126 entries across 21 categories.

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

We are looking for local residents or local stakeholder group members to join our Community Consultative Committee CCC. The HVO CCC is a forum for open discussions and information sharing between HVO and the community. There are four meetings a year. Scan the QR Code, or visit hvo.com.au/community for more information.



New facilities for local Campdraft

The Hunter Valley Campdraft Club now has much needed male and female toilet and shower facilities ahead of its annual event thanks to funding from a HVO community grant. Campdrafting is a unique Australian sport, judging horse riders on their ability to steer and gate a herd of cattle.

Get in touch

Find out more about HVO

hvo.com.au

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