

HVO NEWS

ISSUE SIX | DECEMBER 2020

Welcome from Tony Galvin, General Manager Hunter Valley Operations



Welcome to Issue Six of HVO News, our second and final newsletter for 2020, a challenging year for all of us. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our near neighbours a

wonderful Christmas.

This newsletter contains a number of topics of interest to our community members including rehabilitation, the near neighbour amenity resource, community grants and feral pest management.

If there is particular information you would like to see included in this newsletter, please let us know as we welcome and value feedback and in the meantime please stay safe.

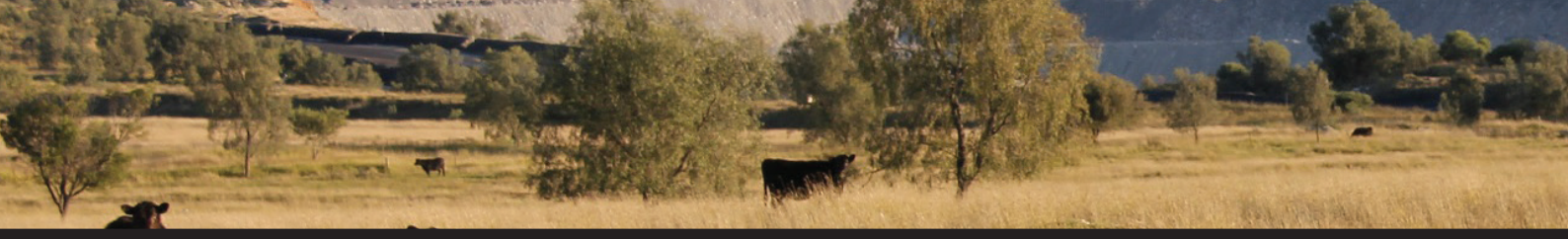
Christmas Vouchers

HVO Employees and contractors were given the choice to donate the value of their Christmas voucher towards either Beyond Blue or Singleton Family Support. I'm pleased to report that we had 109 employees and contractors donate their vouchers. HVO matched employee donations and the final donation amounts are \$6,400 for Beyond Blue and \$4,600 for Singleton Family Support.

Near Neighbour Amenity Resource

HVO continues to offer a choice of either under sink water filter kits or water tank cleaning to our near neighbours. If you received this newsletter and are interested in taking up the offer, please contact Merri Bartlett (merri.bartlett@hvo.com.au or 0455 782 292) to register your interest for this initiative.





Pest and Weed Management

Our pest management program continues to show good results with pests being controlled through shooting, trapping and baiting across our landholdings.

Results of the 2020 program include:

- 10 feral pigs culled
- 454 kangaroos culled
- 1080 baiting spring/autumn program targeting wild dogs and foxes – 201 (year to date)

HVO have synchronised baiting/trapping programs, targeting pigs, wild dogs foxes in conjunction with the Local Land Services.

Additional slashing has been undertaken on our Carrington property to reduce spread of Thistle along the boundary entering rehabilitation areas. We were also able to support Singleton Beef and Land Management to run a field day on weed control for local property owners.

Rehabilitation

We have achieved our planned rehabilitation target of 94 hectares. A significant maintenance programme is ongoing to enhance rehabilitation quality of previously rehabilitated areas, primarily targeted at weed control.

Community Information Sessions

Community Information Sessions were held in Jerrys Plains, Maison Dieu and Long Point in late November and early December. Key topics raised by participants included control of feral animals, dust, noise, community grants and the realignment of Lemington Road as part of the HVO Continuation Project. Thank you to everyone who attended and please get in contact if you have any ideas of how we can improve these sessions in future.





Community Grants Programme

Round Two of our Community Grants Programme closed in October with a number of local organisations successful in obtaining funds totaling almost \$22,000 including:

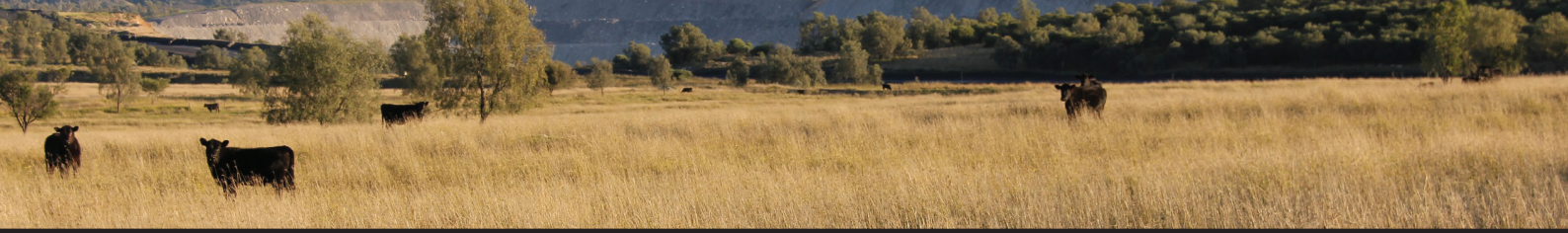
- **Singleton Heights Pre-School Inc**
- Smartscreen Education Technology
- **Singleton PCYC**
- Singleton PCYC Open Day
- **Hunter Valley Campdraft Club Inc**
- Hunter Valley Campdraft Club Arena
- **Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service**
- Volunteer Support Groups Contactless Payment Devices

- **Aberdeen Senior and Little Athletics Centre Inc**
- Technology Update
- **Singleton Beef and Land Management (Weed Control Field Day)**
- **Singleton Fire Brigade (Santa Lolly Run)**

In addition, we have advised Jerrys Plains Public School that we will continue to support the Jerrys Juniors and Ready4School pre-school programmes in 2021.

Thanks to all of the community groups who applied for grants for Round Two. Round One of the 2021 programme will open in April and I encourage community groups to apply.





Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The HVO CCC meets regularly with the last CCC meeting held on 18 November. The forum provides for open discussion between the community, Singleton Council and HVO.

Topics of discussion include mine operations, environmental performance and community relations. Our community members on the HVO CCC include; Brian Atfield, Di Gee, David Love, Dr Neville Hodgkinson, Janelle Wenham, Todd Mills, Jeannie Hayes, Michael Wellard and Councillor Hollee Jenkins. The CCC is independently chaired by Dr Colin Gellatly AO. If you would like a copy of the CCC business papers, presentations and minutes from previous meetings, these are available via InSite, which can be accessed on www.hvo.com.au. Alternatively, if you would prefer a hard copy, please contact us.

HVO Complaints and Blasting Hotline

1800 888 733 (freecall)

- This number can be used for making a complaint about HVO's operations or for finding out road closure times for blasting
- Attended 24 hours a day / seven days a week

HVO Website

Up to date information about HVO and our environmental monitoring performance is available on our website.

To view this information, go to:

- HVO website, via: www.hvo.com.au

HVO SMS Blast Notification System

The system is designed to provide SMS alerts relating to HVO blasting plans and road closures. Community members can subscribe to the service to receive a SMS alert at no cost.

Please send an SMS to 0447 448 982 to register your details for the service making sure that the word *subscribe* is included in the text.

If there is particular information you would like to see included in this newsletter, please let us know.

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