

## BENGALLA MINE

# Community Consultative Committee Update

### *The Bengalla CCC Newsletter...*

The material in this issue of the Bengalla Mine Community Consultative Committee (BMCCC) newsletter has been selected by the CCC representatives.

The BMCCC is comprised of community representatives and representatives from Bengalla Mine including the General Manager. This newsletter aims to inform interested community members on matters discussed during CCC meetings.

### *Change in Ownership*

On Wednesday 30 September, Rio Tinto announced it had signed an agreement to sell its 40 per cent interest in the Bengalla Joint Venture to New Hope Corporation for US\$606 million. The sale is subject to certain conditions being met and the pre-emption rights of the Bengalla Joint Venture partners. The sale is expected to complete in the first quarter of 2016.

During the transition period, Coal & Allied will continue to manage Bengalla and will work closely with the New Hope Corporation and the other Bengalla Joint Venture partners to ensure a safe and smooth handover.

We believe Bengalla will continue to have a bright future under the new ownership. New Hope is keen to build upon Bengalla's strong historical performance.

New Hope Corporation is an established and successful Australian based miner with a proven track record in the safe and efficient production of thermal coal.

### *Dry Creek project commences*

As part of the wider Bengalla Continuation of Mining Project, upstream clean water runoff is proposed to be intercepted, diverted around the advancing mining operations and returned to the Hunter River. This project will proceed as the Dry Creek Project.

Dry Creek is an ephemeral creek that generally only flows following periods of high rainfall.

Whilst most of the works will be internal to the mine, a number of pipes and culverts are required to be installed under Wybong Road, Bengalla Road and Old Bengalla Road to deliver the clean water runoff to the Hunter River.

Under road boring will be used to minimise traffic disruption for the pipe crossings. By adopting the boring technique, two way traffic can be maintained at all times.



*Installation of new culvert to ARTC rail lines during 62hr Shut Down*

Construction activities commenced in October with installation of temporary erosion and sediment control infrastructure, including sediment basins and diversion channels.

Further works will include:

- dam embankment at Wybong Road;
- pipeline and power line around advancing mining operations;
- Installation of culverts under Bengalla Link Road, adjacent to Bengalla Mine entry.

A Community Reference Group has been established for the Dry Creek Project. Meetings have commenced with community members and will be held each month. If you are interested in being part of the Community Reference Group please email Bengalla c/- Debbie.day@riotinto.com

A 12 month construction period is scheduled.

Ultimately, the dam, pump station and pipeline will be decommissioned as the pit advances sufficiently for the surface water flows to be re-established behind the pit.



## *Polly Farmer students welcomed back to Bengalla*

Polly Farmer Enrichment Centre mentoring programme continued this year when we welcomed in excess of 30 students to visit Bengalla and meet with our employees.

The Polly Farmer programme is an after school tuition programme for Aboriginal students who attend Muswellbrook High School.

Eight Bengalla employees have taken on mentoring roles with the students to provide them with guidance on relevant professions and areas of interest.

Whilst at site the students listened to the mentors tell of their journey through school and their career and were able to have one on one conversations with each mentor to ask questions and start to build relationships.

A few laughs were also had at the photos each mentor provided of themselves in their younger years.

A number of the students will return to Bengalla in December to spend one on one time with their selected mentor.



## *Undergraduate scholarships awarded*

Bengalla has awarded local students with scholarships as part of the Bengalla Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme (BUSS).

The BUSS was established in 2000 between Muswellbrook High School and Bengalla with the aim to provide encouragement and financial support for graduating students embarking on tertiary education. Students are selected on merit and each scholarship is valued at \$3000.

Four of the scholarships are presented to graduates of Muswellbrook High School with the fifth scholarship awarded to a student from any local secondary school whose parent is an employee of Bengalla mine.

The winners from Muswellbrook High School are Taylah King, Patrick Richards, Elizabeth Symington and Josie

Whitten with Keedi Hartin from St Joseph's High School, Aberdeen awarded the fifth scholarship.

Elizabeth Bate, Principal of Muswellbrook High School said "We are really fortunate as a school to have the support of Bengalla for the Undergraduate Scholarships. It has been a marvellous way to kick start the university and further education of students from our region."



*The minutes and presentations from CCC meetings are available for public viewing at the Muswellbrook and Denman Libraries. If you have an interest in any of the topics discussed at the CCC and would like further information on this topic or in future newsletters, please contact one of the members listed below.*

If you wish to attend a Bengalla CCC meeting, or would like an issue raised by one of the Committee members, please contact any of the members listed below:

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**Mrs Jo-Anne Scarini (Bengalla GM)** Ph: 6542 9500  
**Mrs Debbie Day (Bengalla)** Ph: 6542 9500  
**Mr Craig White (Bengalla)** Ph: 6542 9500

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