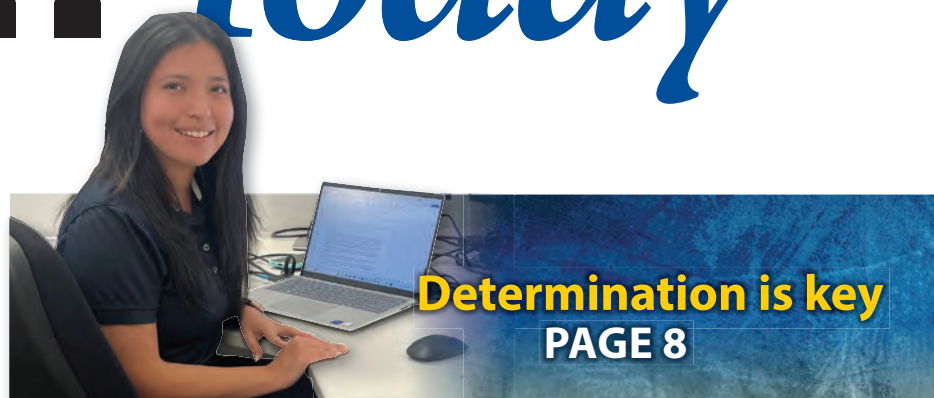


INDUSTRY Today



Tradies for a day
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Passion is what you need to succeed

By Breanna Lloyd

A passionate 18-year-old woman was nominated for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Regional Award in the Central Highlands region and made it to the State Finals in

the Queensland Training Awards on 9 September.

[Read more on page 2](#)

Mining emissions declining

A report from the MCA Climate Action Plan Progress Report states the scope one emissions from MCA full member mining facilities reported into the safeguard mechanism declined by 9.3 per cent in FY22.

The report confirms that member emissions reported through the safeguard mechanism and the National Greenhouse and Energy Report scheme continued to decline during FY22 as the industry continued to make strong progress towards an ambition of net zero by 2050.

[Full story page 4](#)

Helping to reboot

Supporting the Beyond Blue support service for over ten years, the Australian leading manufacturer of safety boots, Steel Blue held an event to discuss mental health with their customers.

Through the online event held on Thursday 10 August, Steel Blue invited guests to hear from many professional speakers, two including Dr Grant Blashki, lead clinical advisor, Beyond Blue, and Steel Blue chief sales officer and founding director Ross Fitzgerald. The topics discussed were how tradies mental health can be dealt with and resolved.

[Full story page 7](#)

Tyre triumph

In a Queensland first, crumb rubber created from giant mining tyres has been used in a trial to resurface one of our major highways.

The trial aims to show mining tyres can be successfully recycled to add value to road construction.

The project team wanted to investigate if a crumb rubber-modified binder made from OTR mining tyres could construct a spray seal for Queensland roads.

Two giant mining tyres supplied by BHP, each over 4 metres high and weighing 4.2 tonnes, were used in the trial.

The giant mining tyres were crushed to produce 7.1 tonnes of small crumbs which was added to bitumen used to construct road surfacing.

The trial occurred as part of a reseal project on the Peak Downs Highway in December 2022.

Since completion, the road surfacing has performed well in Central Queensland summer heat under the intense mining traffic and continues to be monitored.

The project was supported by the National Asset Centre of Excellence (NACOE),

our research program in collaboration with the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB). NACOE undertake various projects enabling the use of crumb rubber bituminous binder in Queensland roads.

The successful construction of trial road surfacing was achieved through collaboration with industry and peak bodies. BHP supplied the tyres, AfPA rallied their members support, Carroll Engineering crumbed the tyre rubber, Ixom and Bituminous Products manufactured it, and Queensland Central Bitumen sprayed it on to the highway.

[Continued page 4](#)

Bringing home gold

A Gladstone local is now a gold medalist in the WorldSkills National Competition in the Electrical Control category.

Qualified Project Electrician for the Gladstone Ports Corporation Joshua Pedersen competed in the competition from 17 to 19 August at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Joshua and his competitors had to build a mimic of an unloading conveyor system.

[Full story page 11](#)

Hard work and dedication

By Breanna Lloyd

A passionate 18-year-old woman was nominated for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Regional Award in the Central Highlands region and made it to the State Finals in the Queensland Training Awards.

Pursuing her career at the Broadmeadow Mine Coal Operations (BMA) as a maintenance administrator, Tayah Womal said she was quite shocked with the result.

"I was quite shocked as the other finalists had great stories and achievements," she said.

"I was also a tad overwhelmed as it made me realise how far I have come and how much I have achieved throughout all my studies.

"I was also grateful my hard work was recognised and appreciated."

Up against Tayah in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, finals were six other women coming from north and south Queensland.

Through her online application, Tayah talked about her passion for working in the Moranbah community.

"In my application for the awards, I stated how I grew up away from my indigenous side of the family and my culture, growing up in a close-knit community where I was involved in all the NAIDOC and community events made me feel connected," she said.

Tayah grew up in a small town Coppabella moved to Moranbah at the age of 12 and scored her first job at the age of 13.

Since then, Tayah has dedicated herself to earning money and developing her independence.

Early in grade 12, Tayah completed two certificates, one being a certificate III in Business through the Australian Trade Training College.

"I believe the reason I was given this award is because of my dedication and initiative to finish Certificate III in Business early, whilst I was completing Grade 12 in school and another certificate.

"I encourage others to apply for school-based traineeships or any courses that may be out of their comfort zone and to take any opportunity you are offered as it can lead to a great learning opportunity."

Tayah was recently offered a secondment in the training department where she will continue to learn and grow in the industry.

"I am enjoying the administration roles at the mine I'm currently in and am hoping to work my way up the hierarchy," she said.

"Hopefully one day I can work in a super-intendent role or a management position elsewhere if my plans ever change."

Tayah said she always encourages everyone to participate in school-based apprenticeships, as so many opportunities can arise.



Tayah was up against six other women from north and south Queensland in the Queensland Training Awards.



Tayah is now pursuing her career in maintenance administration at the BMA mine.



Tayah Womal was a finalist in the Queensland Training Awards.

Pictures: CONTRIBUTED



Tayah Womal.

"I believe it's essential that women are included within the mining industry more even if it's an admin role or working underground," Tayah said.

"I am always sharing the advertisements when they come up and recently when I won

the Regional ATSI Student of the Year, I made a special mention to BMA Broadmeadow Mine for taking me on as a school-based and giving me the opportunity as I couldn't have got as far as I have.

"I am extremely passionate about get-

ting more women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for any opportunity that they see or want to take as your skillset and learnings will keep increasing."

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Award winners bask in the glory

By Breanna Lloyd

The Queensland Training Awards state final's ceremony, held on Saturday 9 September at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, was a hit for all award winners.

Central Highlands regional finalists were Jackson McIvor for the Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year award, Chloe Chuldleigh for the Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year award, and Tayah Womal for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year Regional Award.

Queensland Training Awards Results

- Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year: Gabrielle Clift, Motor Trades Association of QLD, employer Highfields Mechanical and Offroad Pty Ltd, Darling Downs South West, Toowoomba.
- Bob Marshman Trainee of the Year: Charlotte Ross, Precept Education Pty Ltd, em-

ployer ONGC Systems, South East Gold Coast.

- Vocational Student of the Year: Jessica Addo, TAFE Queensland, employer PCYC Queensland, Tropical North Queensland Cairns.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year: Shaniqua Burke, TAFE Queensland, employer Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Tropical North Queensland.
- School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year: Kyezaya Namai-Sabatino, TAFE Queensland, group training organisation MRAEL, host employer Rio Tinto Weipa, school Western Cape College, Weipa, Tropical North Queensland.
- Equity Student of the Year: Dean Clark, GESS Education, group training organisation Fit Education, employer Gold Coast

Titans, South East Gold Coast.

- VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year: Craig Jones, employer UQ Skills (Gatton), Darling Downs South West.
- Community Training Initiative of the Year: E_Suarve, South East Logan.
- Large Employer of the Year: White's IGA, North Coast Sunshine Coast.
- Medium Employer of the Year: All Purpose Transport, South East Berrinba.
- Small Employer of the Year: McCarthy Panel Works, Central Queensland North Mackay.
- Large Training Provider of the Year: TAFE Queensland.
- Small Training Provider of the Year: Demi International Rto#32542 Queensland.
- Premier's Industry Collaboration Award: Programmed Training Services Gladstone.

Tradies for the day ...

In a revolutionary learning initiative that aims to inspire the next generation of skilled trade professionals, the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) is delivering its popular 'Tradies for a Day' program to Biloela students today, thanks to Batchfire Resources.

The Queensland Resources Council's (QRC) education arm is in the Banana Shire giving 20 Year 10 students from Biloela State High School and Redeemer Lutheran College the opportunity to explore various trade-based activities within the safe confines of their classroom.

Biloela State High School Principal, Ms Natasha Bunn expressed her enthusiasm for the program and emphasised the practical benefits it offers to students on the verge of selecting subjects for the final years of senior school.

"Trade careers have long been an integral part of the resources industry's fabric, and as educators we want our students to know there are exciting tertiary education and vocational pathways available to them," Ms Bunn said. "Our school has a strong focus on innovative teaching methods, and we're proud to once again host the QMEA's 'Tradies for a Day' workshop, providing students with a glimpse into the vast array of opportunities available in trades."

Batchfire Resources CEO, Mr Allan Fidock, said the industry relies on a sustainable talent pipeline of skilled trades professionals, and today's event helps bridge the gap between industrial technology and design (ITD) theo-

ry and real-world applications.

"From wiring a circuit board to trying out welding through advanced augmented reality technology, we hope today's session will equip these students with the necessary tools and insights to embark on successful trade-based careers," Mr Fidock said. QRC Director of Skills, Education and Diversity, Ms Katrina-Lee Jones said the hands-on experience is set to illuminate the way students perceive traditional trade roles and empower them with valuable skills that align with the demands of the modern resources sector workforce.

"Under the expert guidance of experienced mentors from Batchfire Resources, students are rotating through a diverse range of trade activities, gaining valuable skills and insights into careers such as electrical work, mechanical engineering, pneumatics and even welding," Ms Jones said. "Recognising the enduring demand for skilled tradespeople and the critical role they play in shaping the resources and energy sector, our workshop creates a secure and interactive environment for students to step into the role of an apprentice for the day."

As Australia's largest and most successful industry-led education and schools initiative, the QMEA seeks to broaden student and teacher knowledge of career opportunities in resources.

The academy encourages a talent pipeline of employees into vocational and professional careers, with a focus on female and Indigenous participation.



Pictures: QLD MINERALS AND ENERGY ACADEMY



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Report confirms strong progress towards net zero

By Tania Constable

The MCA Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2023 released on 6 September shows scope one emissions from MCA full member mining facilities reported into the safeguard mechanism declined by 9.3 per cent in FY22.

The report confirms that member emissions reported through the safeguard mechanism and the National Greenhouse and Energy Report scheme continued to decline during FY22 as the industry continued to make strong progress towards an ambition of net zero by 2050.

In the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERs), MCA members' scope one and two emissions fell by more than 7 per cent in FY22.



Picture: CONTRIBUTED

The report reaffirms and demonstrates the mining industry's continuing focus on reducing emissions as it works towards an ambition of net zero by 2050.

The industry has made substantial progress in the three years since the MCA launched the Climate Action Plan while supporting Australian jobs, and royalties

and taxes, to state and federal governments.

Having established a strong base, Australia's mining industry will continue to progress with climate action initiatives and report regularly on progress.

The report is the third annual report since the release of the MCA Climate Action Plan in 2020 and provides an update on the 10 actions identified in the Climate Action Plan, as well as an update on changes to the Safeguard Mechanism policy framework.

It also outlines the work the industry is undertaking to develop and deploy low emissions technologies with more than 20 case studies showcasing company actions on the ground.

These case studies reflect the diversity of technologies and actions being under-

taken by members to reduce emissions across their value chains.

They include progressing initiatives and innovations such as gravitational energy, mine electrification, climate planning, renewable energy, fuel swapping, carbon capture and storage, autonomous haulage and pumped hydro.

The third Climate Action Plan progress report was released during Minerals Week 2023, the MCA's annual opportunity to engage with decision-makers in Canberra.

The event provides a high-profile platform for the executive leadership of Australian mining to discuss, debate and develop the policies that create jobs, support investment and sustain the wellbeing of mining communities and the national economy.

Recycling mining tyres

In a Queensland first, crumb rubber created from giant mining tyres has been used in a trial to resurface one of our major highways.

The trial aims to show mining tyres can be successfully recycled to add value to road construction.

The project team wanted to investigate if a crumb rubber-modified binder made from OTR mining tyres could construct a spray seal for Queensland roads.

Two giant mining tyres supplied by BHP, each over four metres high and weighing 4.2 tonnes, were used in the trial.

The giant mining tyres were crushed to produce 7.1 tonnes of small crumbs which were added to bitumen used to construct road surfacing.

The trial occurred as part of a resealing project on the Peak Downs Highway in December 2022.

Since completion, the road surfacing has performed well in Central Queensland's summer heat under the intense mining traffic and continues to be monitored.

The project was supported by the National Asset Centre of Excellence (NACOE), our research program in collaboration with the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB). NACOE undertakes various projects enabling the use of crumb rubber bituminous binder on Queensland roads.

The successful construction of trial road surfacing was achieved through collaboration with industry and peak bodies. BHP supplied the tyres, AfPA rallied their member's support, Carroll Engineering crumbed the tyre rubber, Ixom and Bituminous Products manufactured it, and Queensland Central Bitumen sprayed it onto the highway.

Transport and Main Roads Chief Engineer Dennis Walsh said this exciting project



For the first time in Queensland, mining tyres were used to seal the roads.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

is a Queensland first.

"The crumb rubber laid down as road surfacing on a high volume stretch of highway means it has returned full circle to a location close to its working origins," he said.

"Although OTR tyres make up to 25 per cent of 'end of life' tyres in Australia each year, they make up only four per cent of recovered tyre waste rubber.

"This collaboration between TMR and our industry partners supports the Queensland Government's commitment to a more sustainable future through our Environmental Sustainability Policy and Waste to Resource Strategy."

Australian Flexible Pavement Association Executive Director, Technology and Leader-

ship Anna D'Angelo said they are pleased to be collaborating with the Queensland Government.

"We are pleased to be collaborating with the Queensland Government to reuse OTR tyres which would previously have been a waste product ending up as a landfill.

"Through our members, AfPA is keen to promote the sustainability of our industry by protecting the environment and moving toward a circular economy.

"AfPA is proud that its members mobilized in positive support of this exciting environmental project. On behalf of our members, we were involved right through the project, from arranging supply of the crumb rubber to being involved in the research

process to providing technical guidance and feedback."

Asset President BMA, BHP Mitsubishi Alliance Mauro Neves said this collaborative approach provides the mining industry a sustainable way to reuse tyre waste that would otherwise end up in landfill.

"It will have a positive impact on the environment, as more than 6,000 tonnes of tyres can be used to seal roads.

"This is a great example of how the by-products of mining can be used to positively affect the local communities where we operate.

"We look forward to exploring how we can now further expand this trial to other road surfaces around the country."

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Gladstone takes up STEM

STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) enthusiasm is set to take flight on Wednesday 23 and Friday 25 August, among 220 Gladstone students participating in two drone competitions delivered by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy's (QMEA), the education arm of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC).

Thanks to support from ConocoPhillips Australia, the downstream operator of Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG), students as young as year three will soar to success as their team vies for first place, flying their drones through an obstacle course in the fastest time.

Stakeholder Relations Manager at ConocoPhillips Australia, Ms Chantale Lane said on Friday, about 100 students from Years seven to 10 will compete in a secondary school drone competition.

"We were thrilled to have experienced representatives from the Australia Pacific LNG facility attend both competitions, guiding students through activities that replicate supply and logistics, and infrastructure inspections," Ms Lane said.

"With the resources sector's enduring demand for skilled STEM professionals like drone pilots, these competitions are a great opportunity for students to explore rewarding career prospects that encompass cutting-edge technology and hands-on problem-solving."

Toolooa State High School Principal, Mr Justin Harrison said the school was proud to



Winners for the drone competition.

Pictures: QLD MINERALS AND ENERGY ACADEMY

host the competitions again this year, helping students build modern-day capabilities like programming, planning and piloting.

"We were excited to have 30 teams of students from 10 schools across the Gladstone region participating in the workshops, helping them bolster skills that translate directly into the industries of tomorrow," Mr Harrison said.

"Students will go beyond simply flying and will need to use their imagination and creative thinking to design a 3D payload prototype that can be picked up by a drone from a 'warehouse' and transported to a second supply chain location."

Thank you to all Gladstone schools par-

ticipating in this year's drone competition including Toolooa State High School, West State School, Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Central State School, Kin Kora State School, Redeemer Lutheran College, Saint John Catholic Primary School, Gladstone State High School, Chanel College, and Calliope State High School.

As Australia's largest and most successful industry-led education and schools initiative, the QMEA seeks to broaden student and teacher knowledge of career opportunities in resources.

The academy encourages a talent pipeline of employees into vocational and professional careers, with a focus on female and



Over 100 students competed in the drone competition.



Gladstone students enjoyed their day of learning about STEM.

Indigenous participation.

The QMEA currently engages with 97 schools and is a partnership between the QRC and the Queensland Government under its Gateway to Industry Schools program.

Walking the talk on maintaining good mental health

Whether you work to live or live to work, workplaces and colleagues play a vital role in the well-being of every employee as they are the people and places where most of our time is spent.

This has been especially true for workers at CS Energy's Callide Power Station recently, where 330 people – including external contractors brought in for the project – are currently working on an overhaul.

CS Energy Health and Safety Business Partner Andrew Cashin said as well as the work, a majority of the workers are away from home for long periods of time, meaning they're also away from their friends, families, and support networks.

"This makes workplace support all the more essential to maintaining their mental and emotional wellbeing," he said.

Andrew recently engaged Bunyarra Wellbeing Co to provide counselling services and coaching to leaders on the overhaul to assist them in supporting their teams.

Taking an immersive, integrated approach, Bunyarra's counsellors have in-



Bunyarra counsellor Orin Lucke.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

dustry experience and walk the site to actively engage people in conversation.

Bunyarra founder Michael Sanford, who was previously a rigger and scaffolder said it's not just people who are struggling that we engage in conversation; we talk to everyone.

"A lot of the time, people don't know how to start conversations around mental health and wellbeing, so my team walks around during the shift to talk to people - we start the conversation so they don't have to," he said.

"As my counsellors have actually worked in the industry, they can build rapport quickly and integrate with the teams on site.

"Orin, who is currently working on-site at Callide Power Station, is actually from the Biloela region himself, so he's a local boy and it adds a level of rapport which is so important in regional communities."

Michael said people are a company's greatest assets, and if they're struggling mentally then they're going to struggle physically.

"By proactively providing support like this, the issues people need support for become minimal as they're being addressed instead of building up," Michael said.

Andrew said the service has been made available to everyone at the Callide site, and the response has been so great that

Michael will be joining Orin on-site to provide more support services and training for leaders.

"Through this training, our managers will receive the soft skills – the tools – they need to be able to support their teams," Andrew said.

"They'll be able to use these tools to support their teams as they see best – that could be through having to engage in pre-start sessions with the team before work commences in the mornings, or even just starting up a meaningful conversation with someone whom they've identified as needing some support."

CS Energy also has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in place to provide free counselling for employees and their families and is an industry partner of suicide prevention charity Mates in Energy.

With a strong focus on promoting a psychologically safe workplace, we are looking to invest in unconscious bias, appropriate workplace behaviour, and inclusive leadership training for the entire workforce.

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The Indigenous Blackwater students are on their tour through the mine site.



Blackwater students learned the different mining career pathways.

Teaching Indigenous youth

Embracing the richness of cultural heritage alongside the vitality of the local industry, a two-day educational experience delivered by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) is set to empower Indigenous students from Blackwater to pursue rewarding careers in mining.

Thanks to a collaborative initiative between Coronado Global Resources and the QMEA, the education arm of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC), 23 students from Blackwater State High School will gain valuable insights into the leading cultural heritage practices of the local resources and energy sector.

Blackwater State High School Principal, Mrs Rebecca Vitale said this experience is a valuable opportunity for students to learn more about the lands of the traditional Ghungalu custodians and local employment pathways.

“For the participating Indigenous students, this experience not only showcases how the resources sector builds relationships with Traditional Owners, but it also provides helpful career guidance that would allow them to stay connected to home and country,” Mrs Vitale said.

“Our school is extremely proud to be hosting this collaborative initiative again this year, empowering our students to carry their heritage forward in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for the mining industry.”

Coronado Global Resources Chief People and Sustainability Officer, Ms Emma Pollard said students will also participate in a hands-on cultural heritage assessment activity on school grounds, helping them grasp the significance of preserving and integrating their cultural heritage within the local resources sector.

“This two-day program provides Indigenous students with a comprehensive experience that merges environmental awareness and career pathways with cultural importance,” Ms Pollard said.

“We’re proud to help these students draw stronger connections between cultural heritage values and the resources sector.”

QRC Director of Skills, Education and Diversity, Ms Katrina-Lee Jones said ‘Yarbung Rhunga’, now in its third year, is a unique experience offered exclusively to Indigenous students in Years 9 to 11 from Blackwater State High School.

“The experience kicks off today with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Coronado’s Curragh Mine, where students will get the rare opportunity to discover firsthand the many exciting local career opportunities on offer,” Ms Jones said.

“Tomorrow will be dedicated to an Indigenous yarning circle hosted by Milton Lawton, a proud Ghungalu man who will guide students as they explore and celebrate their cultural heritage, helping them cultivate a deep appreciation for their ancestral roots.”

As Australia’s largest and most successful industry-led education and schools ini-



Pictures: CONTRIBUTED



Blackwater students.



A two-day educational industry experience was given to Indigenous Blackwater students. Pictures: Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy.

tiative, the QMEA seeks to broaden student and teacher knowledge of career opportunities in resources.

The academy encourages a talent pipe-

line of employees into vocational and professional careers, with a focus on female and Indigenous participation.

The QMEA currently engages with 97

schools and is a partnership between the QRC and the Queensland Government under its Gateway to Industry Schools program.

Rebooting mental health

By Breanna Lloyd

Australian leading manufacturer of safety boots Steel Blue is determined to make an impact on men's and women's mental health in the workplace through their annual fundraiser campaign.

For over 10 years, Steel Blue has partnered and supported the Beyond Blue support service, an organisation that assists people with anxiety and depression.

Through the online event held on Thursday 10 August, guests were greeted by speakers Dr Grant Blashki, lead clinical advisor, Beyond Blue, and Steel Blue chief sales officer and founding director Ross Fitzgerald and many more. Together, the pair and many others spoke on tradies mental health issues and how those issues can be resolved.

Guests then conducted a survey on their own mental health and who they would consult.

Many respondents, (84 per cent) disagreed with the statement 'depression is a sign of weakness.'

Steel Blue chief sales officer and founding director Ross Fitzgerald said what the 'reality is' for tradies/men in general.

"For almost 10 years we have supported Beyond Blue and worked to raise awareness of good mental health across Australian worksites," he said.

"The reality is most tradies are men, and we know that every day in Australia approximately seven men die by suicide.

"This is why we chose to partner with



Leading manufacturer of safety boots Steel Blue, strives to make an impact on tradies' mental health.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Beyond Blue."

From every profit made since 2014, Steel Blue has donated \$10 to the Beyond Blue Support Service having now donated over \$400,000.

Steel Blue has two long-term partnerships with Breast Cancer Care and Beyond Blue, donating \$10 from every pair of women's pink or purple work boots purchased to Breast Cancer Care and the same for the men's and ladies' blue boots.

"As well as raising vital funds to help Australians access the support 24/7, our Blue

Boots serve to raise awareness – they're a natural conversation starter at many work sites to further help break the stigma around mental health," Ross said.

"By 2025, our community goal is to have provided over A\$3 million in donations and support to community organisations and projects.

"Steel Blue is extremely proud of our many longstanding relationships with charitable and community organisations, which we support in various ways."

The team so far has raised over \$2.2 mil-

lion for their growing list of community partners.

Dr Grant Blashki, lead clinical advisor at Steel Blue, said the importance of initiatives like Steel Blue's collaboration with Beyond Blue is a real game changer.

"It opens up the conversation and reminds tradies who are experiencing mental health problems that they're not alone and it's worth accessing the excellent support out there which can literally change people's lives and help them get back on track," Dr Grant said.

Rural communities set to receive new valuations

More than 66,000 Central Queensland properties in the local government areas (LGAs) of Whitsunday, Isaac, Livingstone, Central Highlands and Banana will receive new land valuations in March next year.

Valuers from the Department of Resources are assessing property markets and properties from now on.

The team of almost 140 expert valuers will be gathering on-the-ground information, as well as undertaking desktop assessments, including research on property sales since the last valuation.

Their assessments will see new land valuations issued for properties covering nearly 189,000 square kilometres in these LGAs by 31 March 2024.

A total of 20 local government areas are being valued with new valuations taking effect from 30 June next year.

Land valuations will remain unchanged in local government areas that are not re-valued. Queensland landowners can sign up to receive their 2024 land valuation

notice by email.

Valuer-General, Laura Dietrich said the decision to revalue an LGA is based on several factors, including a detailed property market analysis, the timing since the last valuation and the results of consultations with individual local governments and industry stakeholders.

"Land valuations provide independent data that underpins decision-making and allows landowners to monitor the changing value of their land," she said.

"The information is used by the Queensland Revenue Office when considering land tax and Councils as an input into their rating considerations.

"But it's important to stress, that it's not the only data considered by a Council when deciding rates.

"Local governments have wide-ranging powers to manage rates, including differential rating, setting a minimum rate, rate capping and the averaging of valuations before rates are assessed."

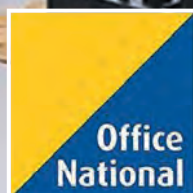


Properties in the Whitsunday, Isaac, Livingstone, Central Highlands and Banana regions will receive new land valuations next year.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

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Determination is key

By Breanna Lloyd

A Rockhampton University student is determined to finish her studies in Mechatronics Engineering and wants to become a member of the Australian Institute of Engineering.

Coming from Peru, Daniela Espinoza is a student at CQ University and is studying the design of maintenance and machinery with electronic and computer control systems, including aircraft, power generators, robotics and high-tech fields of automated systems.

"In my earlier years I was very interested in animals and helping them, but I soon grew out of that," she said.

"I became attracted to engineering after watching my father working on bigger type trucks, pulling them apart then putting them back together."

Daniela's family in Peru strongly support her career pathway and she said this makes her want to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer.

"My family's support makes me more determined and committed to completing my qualification study," she said.

Daniela has gained high distinctions throughout certain units of her studies and is determined to succeed.

"Throughout my studies, mother passed away," she said.



Daniela Espinoza.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

"This put a lot of pressure on me and left me in a very emotional state and unfortunately I ended up failing the last unit.

"This too made me more determined and committed to successfully completing what I had started."

Searching for permanent employment and residency in Australia, Daniela is now focusing her attention on eliminating algae in water deposits.

"I plan to diminish algae in water deposits by introducing an ultraviolet process in-

stead of chemicals," she said.

After she graduates, Daniela plans to register to be a member of the Australian Institute of Engineers where she can show-off her engineering skills.

Rural girl scoring big with her journalistic passion

Driven by passion, a young lady has made it her goal to achieve her dreams, starting with her writing journey.

Breanna Lloyd, an 18-year-old woman is a Cadet Journalist for Queensland Farmer Today and the Features Journalist for CQ Today, Gladstone Today, Emerald Today and Longreach Today newspapers.

"Being a shy country girl coming off a 16,500-acre property and coming into this was very daunting for me," she said.

"I have come to realise that I love writing about agriculture and that I have a strong passion for it.

"I feel as though in today's society, agriculture is overlooked and undervalued and I feel it is my job to get people interested again."

Working in the CQ Today office in Rockhampton, Brea explained how she started off in the journalism industry.

"I started off with just working for Queensland Farmer Today with a few stories here and there with CQ Today," she said.



Cadet Journalist Breanna Lloyd on family's property, Beeblee Station, in 2022.

"Recently I was appointed as the new features journalist for the CQ region which has been a juggling act."

Brea said having to juggle everything is difficult for her to adjust to but her team

has made the change easier for her.

"I am very thankful to have such a great team and support network around me," she said.

"Being able to learn, grow and experience new things from such a wonderful team, I couldn't be more thankful."

While learning on the job, Brea is also completing an online university course on Community Journalism with Deakin University in Victoria.

As a part of the job, it is required for the three-year university course to be completed.

Brea grew up outside of a small country town Nebo, in her family's farming and cattle operation.

"My older brother Tyron, and I grew up on Beeblee Station and it has been in my family for over 50 years," she said.

"My father, Jason who also grew up on Beeblee, and my mother Maria, run about 1800 head of breeders and are starting up a Brangus Stud next year.

"I do miss home a lot but I wanted to have a career before returning to the land."

Having been on the land her whole life, Brea said permanently living in town was a big change for her.

"It is a very different lifestyle to adjust to," she said.

"It's made me realise just how much people in town have no idea what it's like to live and to work out on the land and it's sad really.

"This is why I feel it is important to get agriculture in the media and to show people why it's important."

Although agriculture is her biggest passion, Brea expressed how she also loved to write.

"I have been writing stories since I was six years old," she said.

"I would always sneak into my parent's computer room and just type about all these different stories I had in my head.

"I am actually in the process of writing a book that I am hoping to publish one day."



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Aboriginal heritage on topic

By Rudi Maxwell, AAP

As the Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining, Energy and Exploration conference gets underway in Cairns, looking after heritage is high on the agenda.

Both the traditional owners of Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara and the mining giant that destroyed it, Rio Tinto, are speaking at an Indigenous mining conference.

Derek Flucker, a Quandamooka man from Stradbroke Island, chairs Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining, Energy and Exploration, which is holding its national conference in Cairns this week.

Mr Flucker has been involved in the mining industry for more than 30 years and runs his own company, RBY Projects, which provides construction, maintenance and rehabilitation services to companies including Origin Energy and QGC/Shell.

"Aboriginal people can reap the most benefit out of it," he said.

"We're always talking about getting people from overseas to fill the skill shortage when we got these people sitting in their backyard that that is starting to really take a foothold into these projects.

"Not many people hear about some of the positive things that are going on in the Aboriginal space and this is hopefully shining a positive light on that."

Mr Flucker said one of the important issues on the agenda at the conference is getting traditional owners and mining companies together so that ways of protecting Aboriginal heritage sites can be properly discussed.

Traditional owners from Juukan Gorge in Western Australia, the Puutu Kuntj Kurrma and Pinikura people are speaking at the conference, as will representatives from mining



Picture: LUKAS COCH/AAP PHOTOS

giant Rio Tinto, which destroyed the important cultural site in 2020.

"We can hopefully avoid that happening again in the future so that we don't get sites destroyed," Mr Flucker said.

"It's about how mining companies and Aboriginal groups work together to ensure that the resource sector can deliver what they need to deliver but also make sure that the culture and the heritage of Aboriginal people is protected.

"It's really brought home to both the In-

igenous people and also the mining companies that these are areas we need to be careful of and that we really need to not put resource interests over Aboriginal interests when it comes to this.

"If it was a non-Indigenous church that was being destroyed by a mining company I'm sure there'd be a major uproar across the whole of Australia.

"We've got businesses that deliver services, like water and coffees and all those sorts of things and you got fairly big businesses that do quite substantial amounts of work

turning over millions and millions of dollars a year, running their own mining operations and we've got businesses that are at the smaller end.

"It's about showing the broader community that Aboriginal people are doing well in this space and we're also trying to help those up-and-comers to find opportunities to get a foothold in this industry.

"We see it as the biggest economic development opportunity in Australia for Aboriginal people."

Gladstone's major annual conference is back

By Breanna Lloyd

Returning to Gladstone Engineering Alliance this September is the Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference presented by Aestec Services.

The two day event will run from Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre.

The conference is an insight for people involved in industry, energy and manufacturing and it demonstrates the opportunities and knowledge within their professions.

Numerous influential guest speakers involved in industrial practices will discuss how Central Queensland is arranging to

further its industrial development.

Conference attendees will have the exclusive opportunity to partake in the Gladstone Bus Tour.

The Gladstone Bus Tour will run on Tuesday 26 September from 2.30pm to 4pm.

After the Bus Tour, guest speakers and sponsors are invited to attend a sightseeing cruise of the Gladstone Harbour at 5.30pm.

Aboard the boat will be drinks, tapas and live entertainment.

The Industry Awards Night and Gala Dinner will kick off at 6.30pm on Wednesday 27 September and will finish late.

Six awards will be presented on the

night, the Safety Excellence Award, the Forty Calis Memorial Award, the Innovator Award, the Wayne Peachey Memorial Award, the GEA Industry Hall of Fame Award and the Beale Culture Award.

Also occurring on 27 September is the Gladstone Engineering Alliance will be celebrating 20 years in business.

The Conference will then start on Thursday 28 September at 7.30am and will run until 4pm.

To conclude the proceedings of the conference, guests, speakers and sponsors are encouraged to attend the Networking Drinks starting at 4pm.

For more information go to <https://gea.asn.au/major-industry-energy-and-manufacturing-conference/>



The Major Industry, Energy and Manufacturing Conference will be held on 27 and 28 September. Picture: CONTRIBUTED



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Preparing our miners

Queensland's biggest underground coal mine exercise is about to kick off for another year, and for the first time, Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) has released footage from the mock emergency.

In 2022, workers from Carborough Downs Coal Mine and volunteers at Queensland Mines Rescue Service (QMRS) joined forces with RSHQ to prepare for life-threatening emergencies on the job.

Two events, known as 'Level one emergency exercises', were hosted by Fitzroy Mining's Carborough Downs Coal Mine underground operation, 25km east of Moranbah in the heart of the Bowen Basin.

The exercises are kept as a surprise to the mine site and are often done at the end of the workers' shift to challenge them.

The first exercise, with QMRS, simulated a roof collapse which caused the gas concentration to reach an unsafe level inside the mine.

A supervisor was also unaccounted for, and the last known location was in the area affected by the collapse.

The exercise tested the communication systems in place as well as the quality of equipment.

RSHQ Coal Mines Chief Inspector Jacques le Roux said they do everything they can to prevent these dangerous situations.

"RSHQ does all it can to prevent these emergencies in real life, but when they do occur we need to be ready," Mr le Roux said.

"These exercises can mean the difference between life and death."

The second scenario, with Carborough Downs Coal Mine workers, mimicked a loss of energy supply from Ergon which wouldn't be back up and running for at least 10 hours.

Soon after the energy supply was cut, part of the mine collapsed, all communication to the surface was lost, and a crew member was struck in the head knocking him unconscious.

Coal mine workers had to communicate with one another to rescue their colleagues, all while monitoring gas levels to secure their own safety. It was even more challenging when workers were forced to walk most of the way and carry their injured colleagues to the surface.

Underground coal miners usually have access to vehicles called Driftrunners but they were unable to be driven past a certain point due to methane levels in this exercise.

"The teams went really well, and we attribute that to a lot of the work the mines do outside of these big annual exercises," Mr le Roux said.

"It also helps that most coal mines have QMRS volunteers working at their sites, so their skills become invaluable when disaster strikes."



The biggest underground coal mine emergency exercise was held in the heart of the Bowen Basin.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Queensland coal mines are required by law to have a minimum of 5 per cent of their staff trained in underground mine rescue.

Level one training, involving crews from across the state, occurs once a year, but each mine must undergo its own Level two training as well.

The exercises give underground coal

mine workers the ability to self-escape and triage injured co-workers, among other skills.

"There is always room for improvement but that's why we do these exercises, which highlight the importance for coal mines to re-evaluate their aided escape strategies," Mr le Roux said.

"Our hope is that this experience and the findings in each annual report can benefit emergency response systems in other mines across Queensland and the rest of the country."

The 2023 Level one emergency exercises will be held at an underground coal mine in September and November.

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A golden success

By Breanna Lloyd

A Gladstone local knocked out first place in the Electrical Control category at the WorldSkills Nationals Competition and received a gold medal for his skills.

Joshua Pedersen, a qualified Project Electrician for the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) competed in the WorldSkills National Competition from 17 to 19 August at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

As this was Joshua's first time competing, he said receiving the gold medal was a massive achievement.

"I look forward to encouraging and mentoring new apprentices on their journey and inspiring them just the way Pop inspired me," he said. "Competing in the Electrical Control category at the WorldSkills Competition interested me as it is very similar to the work I do at GPC. I'm really passionate about delivering quality work."

During the competition, Joshua and the other competitors were required to build a mimic of an unloading conveyor system. A special ceremony was held after the competition where the medals were given out on Sunday 20 August.

"My Pop was an electrician and he really inspired my journey as an electrician," he said. "He was very successful in his trade and he really loved what he did and he taught me there were many career opportunities in the world and to just go for it. He passed away a few years ago but he still inspires me every day at work to give it my best."

Joshua first started his career with the GPC as an Electrical Apprentice in 2019, and as of early this year, has graduated from the GPC.

"Throughout my apprenticeship, I was given the opportunity to learn from some of the best tradesmen in the region at one of Australia's most significant Ports," he said.

Like the other gold medalists, Joshua is now in the next phase of the competition, the WorldSkills International Competition held in Leon, France. The WorldSkills Australia group will select some of the gold medalists to represent the Australian team.

Including Joshua a total of five tradesmen from CQ University attended the competition, with two bringing home medals.

Gladstone locals Dirk Holmes and Joshua Hurst, are both now silver medalists from the competition. Dirk got second place in Heavy Vehicle Mechanics and Joshua also in second place in Electrical Installation.

This year, GPC received more than 522 applications from aspiring apprentices and trainees over two programs reflecting a strong interest in training at GPC and its facilities. Safety is at the forefront of their inductions with the apprenticeships equipping the future tradespeople with world-class skills to expand their horizons. The intensive program includes exposure to a variety of port area rotations, equipment and a priority focus on safety in the workplace.

The apprentices and trainees spend up to four years at GPC, learning their chosen trade. Congratulations to all award winners.

Rocky's hydrogen project

The State Governments are investing more than \$23 million in a ground-breaking renewable hydrogen project in the Illawarra and Rockhampton.

Provided by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), \$20.9 million in funds will be given to support Wollongong-based company Hysata in developing an advanced electrolyser that can produce renewable hydrogen more efficiently.

This means driving down costs for renewable hydrogen – which can be used by heavy industries such as steel, heavy transport and more to reduce emissions and remain competitive in a decarbonising global economy.

The cutting-edge project will demonstrate the effectiveness of Hysata electrolyser technology at a scale of five megawatts with an aim of a 20 per cent increase in efficiency compared to current electrolysers in use today.

The electrolyser demonstration unit will be installed at Stanwell Power Station outside of Rockhampton, Queensland after development work takes place at Hysata's facility in Port Kembla, NSW.

Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen made the announcement at the opening of Hysata's new electrolyser manufacturing facility in Port Kembla.

Hysata has previously received funding as part of the German-Australian Hydrogen Innovation and Technology Incubator (HyGATE) Initiative for a pilot stage 200 kW electrolyser.

"We're delighted to support game-changing, homegrown innovation that will power our future as a clean energy



The State Government is investing over \$23 million into a renewable hydrogen project. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

manufacturer and a renewable energy superpower."

Global demand for renewable hydrogen is growing rapidly and is projected to reach 500 million tonnes per year by 2050.

Australia's regions can and should have a piece of the action in supplying renewable hydrogen technology to heavy industry at home and abroad – and the State Government is investing to ensure they can do just that.

Queensland Hydrogen Champion and Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said the region was serious about using local people and experience to lead the development of the global hydrogen industry.

"Queensland's green hydrogen industry is the next frontier in a world hungry for clean energy and is our greatest climate, jobs, and economic opportunity in a generation," he said.

Congratulations!

Two of Gladstone Ports Corporation's (GPC) tradespeople have been awarded a gold and silver medal at the **WorldSkills Australia National Championships**

GPC's electrician **Joshua Pedersen** was awarded a gold for the electrical control category.

And GPC's fourth year diesel fitter apprentice **Dirk Holmes**, who was less than one point away from coming first place – receiving a silver medal.

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A big move into industry

When Gold Coast woman Georgia Alfred made the big move to Gladstone for a job opportunity in a new industry she was excited to start the next chapter of her life.

In an unexpected turn of events, Georgia's new employer lost their contract just before she was due to start work.

She was left in a new town, away from her support network, without a job and few opportunities that matched her existing qualifications.

Georgia was at a loss as to what to do next, until she heard about CTC's Step Into Resources and Infrastructure program, which while was a pivot in her career direction was an opportunity she was keen to take.

"My friend told me about CTC's program, and I started the next day," she said.

"I discovered I had so many transferrable skills and had been underestimating and underselling myself in previous job applications."

Delivered by CTC (part of the IntoWork Group), the free program, also known as Women In Construction, is designed to help disadvantaged women in Central Queensland by providing them with employability skills and confidence and increasing female participation in Gladstone's resources and infrastructure sector through entry-level jobs.

In the program, participants develop industry-specific skills, qualifications and workplace experience alongside life skills and are connected with local employers looking for skilled candidates.

As Gladstone goes through another major infrastructure boom with projects such as Stanwell, Iwatani, Rodds Bay Solar Farm, Gladstone Port Project and Aldoga Solar Farm, the program's employment component aims to give participants the specific work skills required by local employers to meet their labour shortage needs.

The program gave Georgia the confidence she needed to upskill and realise her potential with her resume.

"I really liked the relaxed atmosphere of the program and, being new to town, meeting new people was a highlight for me," she said.

"I learned a lot about resume writing, upskilling, and creating space for women in trades."



Georgia Alfred was successful in CTC's Step Into Resources and Infrastructure program.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

CTC Program Manager April Ibbotson said the program went beyond providing the key work skills required for employment, it

provided holistic support and fostered personal development for the women involved in the program.

"These were women who were just struggling to stay afloat with the current cost of living, some of them were in domestic violence situations and would go without food to feed their kids," she said.

"Despite their hardships, they were motivated to change their lives through the program."

April said by the end of the program, participants had not only gained new skills but also developed a new sense of self-worth and confidence.

"One lady couldn't even walk to her mailbox at the start of the program and now the way she dresses and talks is unbelievable, she's so confident," she said.

"What these women have come from to where they are now, we're very proud of what they've achieved."

As for Georgia, she experienced another career pivot during the program - Georgia realised she wanted to help others in their career path, and with the skills she learned during the program successfully applied for a role as Career Development Consultant where she will now work with next intake of Women in Construction.

"I love my new job and I have a clear career direction and career goals I've never had before," she said.

"I would recommend the program to anyone who is interested in a career change or heading back to work after unemployment."

April said Georgia's story is a testament to the transformative power of the program.

"She just started her new job and is thriving," April said.

"The program shows it doesn't matter what background you come from, sometimes things don't always work out.

"Programs like Women In Construction provide people with the opportunity to see what else is out there, and give you with the tools needed to get into sustainable employment."

The next Women In Construction program will be held on 29th January 2024. For those interested, please call 1300 999 282.

The program is funded by Skilling Queenslanders for Work, an initiative of the Queensland Government Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training.

'Killer dust' one step closer to national ban

A ban on the manufacture, use and import of harmful engineered stone products is a step closer to reality after the ALP national platform was amended on 18 August, says the union representing building workers.

Engineered stone products used in Australian homes produce deadly respirable crystalline silica dust which can cause silicosis during manufacture and when it is cut to fit kitchens and bathrooms where it is currently widely used.

CFMEU Construction and General Division National Secretary, Zach Smith said the inclusion of a ban on engineered stone products is welcomed by all building workers.

"The deadly dust produced by engineered stone is taking the lives of young tradespeople in this country and it needs to be banned," he said.

"No matter how good a kitchen might look, it is no substitute for the health of a tradesperson.

"Make no mistake, engineered stone is the next asbestos and we need to get it banned urgently in this country.

"I want to thank delegates to the ALP National Conference for voting to include this ban on harmful engineered stone products in the ALP national platform.

"We know that one in four of the work-

ers who use this stone will develop deadly silicosis or other deadly dust diseases.

"You don't need engineered stone to build homes or offices, it's not integral to the building process, it's a cosmetic product."

The amendment reads that Labour will take all necessary steps to eradicate the hazard posed to workers by exposure to silica dust.

Kyle Goodwin, who was diagnosed with silicosis at 33, says this a very important step towards ensuring the safety of the next generation of stone masons.

"The inclusion of this ban in the Labor Party's national platform is a very important step towards ensuring the safety of the next generation of stone masons," she said.

"I cut engineered stone for nine years with no idea of the dangers of the silica dust I was surrounded by each and every day I went to work.

"We need to keep fighting to make sure this ban is rolled out immediately."

The ALP National platform is one step closer to banning harmful engineered stone products found in Australian homes.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED



Academy backs pathway

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) has welcomed the Pathway to Diversity in STEM Review draft recommendations by Minister Ed Husic.

Despite significant government investment and impactful targeted programs to increase diversity in STEM, national progress has been woefully inadequate; girls and women remain desperately underrepresented, from early school years, through to tertiary education and into careers. Scale and systemic work is urgently needed.

ATSE is very pleased to see the report's call for concerted and central Government coordination and a national strategic approach.

Any coordinating body will require an independent council and must take a holistic cross-government and whole-sector approach to identify gaps and target the nuanced barriers experienced by a myriad of diverse cohorts such as First Nations peoples, migrant and refugee populations, people with disabilities, and those in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Kylie Walker, CEO of ATSE said strong coordination and a strategy that knits together the multiple initiatives zeroing in on the diversity in STEM challenge are low-hanging fruit.

"A whole-of-system approach that unflinchingly and collaboratively addresses cultural and systemic barriers will be critical to smash the factors that are holding women and diverse people back and provide whole-of-lifecycle support to bolster diverse participation in STEM-powered jobs," she said.

"We currently have highly targeted, strong impact and high-quality programs, but we need to coordinate across the sys-



Minister Ed Husic.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

tem, hold ourselves accountable to the people we seek to help, be prepared to evolve in response to new information, and invest at scale if we have any hope of changing the game.

"The Government can design and catalyse coordination that goes beyond the specific programs identified in the review, and take a broad-reach approach to systematically address barriers to women and diverse people.

"There is no silver bullet for improving diversity in STEM. This work is hard, and no single program will solve it.

What's critical is that investment is long-term and at a genuinely national scale, rather than ad hoc, and that a connected-up approach is baked into the design across all programs so that we can realise our potential for a genuinely diverse sector and STEM-informed society," said Kylie Walker.

The ATSE's Elevate 'Boosting Women in STEM program' was recognised in the review for having national ambition and intersectionality at its heart with inclusivity, accessibility and racial empathy underpinning the application process. The program was designed collaboratively and awards undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships

to women in STEM and provides them with targeted mentoring, professional development, engagement with industry, and leadership and research opportunities.

ATSE welcomes the recommendations relating to the Elevate program and is already planning to work with industry partners to expand and grow its scale.

The Academy and its 900 Fellows congratulate the review panel, led by Sally-Ann Williams, and look forward to advising on a robust set of final recommendations that can support systemic change for realising the potential and positive intent around diversity in Australian STEM.

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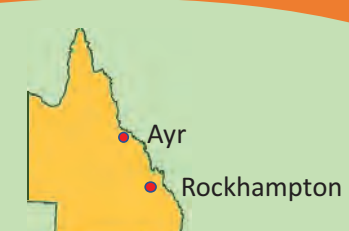
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Mufaro Tom from Muswellbrook High School in NSW's Hunter Valley was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.



Ryse Thurstun, from Redeemer Lutheran College in Rochedale, Qld was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship. Pictures: CONTRIBUTED

Scholarships are arising

Two promising first-year engineering students – one from Queensland and one from New South Wales, have been awarded scholarships aimed at addressing a shortage of engineers in the resources sector.

The ARISE Scholarships, awarded by Australian Resources Industry Skills and Education (ARISE) and supported by BHP and BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), are open to students in Year 12 at ARISE partner schools.

Rhys Thurstun, from Redeemer Lutheran College in Rochedale, Qld was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship while Mufaro Tom, from Muswellbrook High School in NSW's Hunter Valley, was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.

Currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at UQ, Rhys Thurstun is on a pathway to specialise in chemical engineering. Rhys said that the money will assist with university costs and provide avenues to connect with industry representatives.

Redeemer Lutheran College Head of Senior School, Anastasia Strong said they believe that Rhys will make a big impact in his chosen field of engineering.

"As one of our college captains and the dux of the school last year, Rhys demonstrated exceptional leadership skills," she said.

Rhys was attracted to engineering on the basis that it incorporates some of his favourite subjects: physics, maths and chemistry.

Taking part in the 2021 ARISE Oresome Minds Camp in the Bowen Basin – where Year 10 and 11 students worked on-site with engineers to develop solutions in real-world scenarios – gave him a unique insight into the field.

"I got a taste of the engineering process," Rhys said.

"Which involves research, brainstorming, iterating and evaluating solutions to arrive at a final solution to a problem."

For Mufaro Tom, the first student from outside of Queensland to win an ARISE Scholarship, engineering is a natural progression from his love of maths and physics.

Inspired by his father, who works in the mining industry, Mufaro is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering in the Mining Transfer Program at the University of Newcastle.

Mufaro's scholarship will help him to afford essentials, such as textbooks, as he sets himself up for his degree.

"It will also take the pressure off working during semesters, so I'll be able to dedicate

more time to studying and reaching my educational goals," Mufaro said.

Principal Kylie Fabri said Muswellbrook High School's staff and students are thrilled for Mufaro.

"He was a valued member of our Student Representative Council and was also selected in 2021 as one of 20 Rural Youth Ambassadors across NSW tasked with finding ways to improve education for rural students," Kylie said.

ARISE Manager of Skills and Education Matthew Heskett said that these scholarships are designed to help some of the best and brightest young Australians as they pursue careers in the resources sector.

"Both Rhys and Mufaro have gravitated towards engineering because of their love of STEM subjects, and because they've had exposure to the resources sector during their school years," Matthew said.

"These scholarships will allow them more freedom and flexibility during their studies so that they can focus on their educational experiences," he said.

BMA's Head of Technical Services Shaun Hansen said that engineering graduates are crucial to mining's future.

"As the resources sector evolves through new challenges, we are proud to support dynamic young people like Rhys and Mufaro as they enter this exciting field," he said.

BHP NSW Energy Coal Vice President Adam Lancey congratulated Muswellbrook local Mufaro for being the first NSW student to be awarded an ARISE Scholarship.

"As an aspiring engineer and inspiring young leader, Mufaro will be an asset to Australian mining," he said.

The Australian Resources Industry Skills and Education (ARISE) Initiative was established to broaden the geographic reach of the highly successful industry-led education and skills training initiative, QMEA, in states and territories across Australia.

The initiative encourages secondary school students into STEM-related careers in the resources sector, with a focus on female and Indigenous participation.

The initiative is made possible through the support of foundation partners, BHP and BMA, and provides students and teachers the opportunity to experience the resources sector operations through on-site and in-school activities, flagship camps, and scholarships.



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OPINION

Qld's jobs start to rise



August 2023 brought promising developments to Central Queensland's job market and economy.

Jobs Queensland's release of data early in the month confirmed that the region was poised for significant growth, positioning it among the fastest-growing regions in Queensland.

With a forecasted job growth rate of 11.5 per cent over the next few years until 2025-26, the region appears set to thrive.

Here are some of the key factors contributing to Central Queensland's current economic and employment landscape:

Job Growth and Economic Prosperity

Central Queensland has long been associated with its rich mining and resources sector.

However, in recent years, the region has diversified its economic base, making it more resilient to commodity price fluctuations.

The recent data from Jobs Queensland painted an optimistic picture, with an expected 11.5 per cent job growth rate over the next few years.

This growth reflects a strategic shift towards a more diversified economy, including renewable energy, tourism, and agriculture.

Unemployment rate

The latest reported unemployment rate for Central Queensland is 3.7 per cent (June quarter) which is 17 per cent lower than the same time last year.

This is impacted somewhat by a higher participation rate of 71.1 per cent, compared to 67.1 per cent a year ago.

This means that the proportion of the CQ population that is actively participating in the workforce has increased.

Resources and Renewables

Whilst the region's reliance on the resource sector remains substantial, it's important to note that mining companies have been actively investing in automation and sustainability initiatives.

These efforts have created a demand for



Queensland is forecasted job growth rate of 11.5 per cent over the next few years until 2025-26. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

skilled workers in areas such as automation engineering and sustainable resource management.

This trend suggests that Central Queensland's resource sector is adapting to meet the challenges of the future, while still providing significant employment opportunities.

Central Queensland's potential for renewable energy generation has gained significant traction lately.

With its abundance of sunshine and wind resources, the region has become a hotspot for solar and wind energy projects.

Several major renewable energy projects have broken ground, providing jobs in construction, operation, and maintenance.

These developments align with Queensland's broader commitment to clean energy, contributing to Central Queensland's

job market growth.

The region's natural beauty, including stunning coastlines and national parks, has attracted a surge in tourism.

According to Jobs in Central Queensland advertising data, August saw an uptick in hospitality and tourism-related employment, ranging from hospitality to eco-tourism ventures.

As more tourists explore Central Queensland's natural wonders, local businesses and job seekers have benefitted from the influx of visitors helping to support economic growth.

Skills and Training

To capitalise on the region's growth potential, the Central Queensland industry has been actively investing in education and training programs.

Local training institutions have part-

nered with industries to provide tailored courses and upskilling opportunities for job seekers.

This proactive approach ensures that the workforce is adequately prepared for the evolving job market, enhancing employability and driving economic progress.

Regional Infrastructure

Central Queensland's economic growth has been supported by significant investments in infrastructure projects.

Current projects across the region include various road, rail, and port upgrades improving connectivity, reducing transportation bottlenecks and facilitating the movement of goods and people.

These infrastructure improvements will bolster the region's attractiveness for businesses, boosting job creation and economic prosperity.

Challenges

Despite the positive outlook, Central Queensland continues to face some challenges.

The potential for job growth may be tempered by factors such as workforce shortages in specific sectors, housing supply and affordability, plus the need for sustainable development practices.

Addressing these challenges will be crucial to ensuring that the region's growth remains inclusive and sustainable.

Conclusion

It is a promising era for Central Queensland's job market and economy.

The data released by Jobs Queensland, forecasting an 11.5 per cent job growth rate until 2025-26, underlines the region's potential as one of Queensland's fastest-growing areas.

Diversification into renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, and ongoing investments in skills and infrastructure have contributed to this remarkable transformation.

While challenges exist, Central Queensland's proactive approach to addressing them positions the region for continued growth and economic prosperity.

As we move forward, it will be exciting to witness how Central Queensland continues to thrive and seize the opportunities on the horizon.

For more information and insights about local job opportunities and recruitment support visit JobsinCentralQueensland.au



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OPINION



Dylan Gannan with his LoRaWAN mousetrap.



Pictures: CONTRIBUTED The SmartHub was formally located in the Customs House building before it closed last year.

If you can, then I can

Do you have to see something aspirational before you can dream about it?

After all, if you never saw it (or some form of 'it') how can you dream about it? Or are dreams something totally random, drawn from unknown sources?

Pardon, this personal rambling, I'm wondering how some things get invented, refined, or going back a step, where the inspiration comes from.

In one of those emails, that you just glanced at, I came across an invitation to attend a presentation on 'the power of LoRaWAN'.

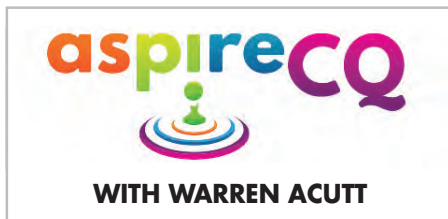
What is LoRaWAN?

Thinking I knew what some of the letters stood for, I Googled to see how close I was, then delved a little deeper into what it could be used for.

I don't profess to understand LoRaWAN, but it was an interesting read.

Low range wide area network (LoRaWAN), is how electricity and water meters in some communities are checked.

Or where empty parking spaces in a busy car park can be sent to you before you enter.



Or knowing when you have caught a mouse.

That is what this presentation was about, Dylan Gannan's journey to creating a LoRaWAN mousetrap.

I know it gets you in, doesn't it?

It was the start-up journey that actually got me in.

A guy from Rockhampton, a CQU graduate, who is now selling this mousetrap, PestSense, throughout the world.

Should be an interesting story, one you would not hear every day.

The journey initially involved mangoes, but after attending the Turbo Traction Lab offered by the Rockhampton SmartHub, Dylan turned his direction to a bigger mar-

ket to utilise LoRaWAN technology, catching mice.

From this suggestion, Dylan's journey would see Angel Investors get on board, employees recruited, millions of dollars in research invested then affected by ants, cane toads, snails, the Ukraine war, and a factory in China recently producing the latest reiteration of the LoRaWAN mousetrap.

Further steps may even see an IPO (Initial Public offering).

A possible outcome that can be traced back to the Rockhampton Regional Council abandoned SmartHub.

Otherwise, this narrative might be, at best, about mangoes.

A side note, a SmartHub still exists in Rockhampton.

A few members, on leaving the Customs House Building, stayed together and started their own SmartHub to continue working on their start-ups, in Denham Street.

If you can, I can.

As I mentioned in my last column, how important local independent businesses are in inspiring others to take a punt, and set out

on their own entrepreneurial path.

Seeing, hearing, and reading stories of local people with an idea, sharing it, modifying it, testing it, changing it, testing it again, developing it, and turning it into something tangible, inspires others.

Some of whom might dream of developing their ideas. Less, will write down these dreams and call them goals.

Fewer still, will set out on their own to achieve these goals.

But, with encouragement, support, seeing others do it and learning about their journey, more will.

Here is a little bit about the entrepreneurial journey of Dylan Gannan, which started in Central Queensland, where Dylan still lives. And a smidgen on those keeping the SmartHub flame burning in Rockhampton. Visit their Facebook page.

To the Australian Computer Society Rockhampton, thank you for hosting presentations like Dylan's and opening them for anyone to attend.

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OPINION

Glenn Butcher
 Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
 and Minister for Water, Member for Gladstone



Preparing for hydrogen

It is undeniable hydrogen will play an enormous role in Queensland's energy future and Gladstone is an important piece of the puzzle.

Queensland's hydrogen industry is expected to grow by \$19 billion and create thousands of local jobs by 2040.

As one of the state's leaders in renewable energy, Gladstone is already set to become a superpower in green hydrogen production, with the development of the \$117 million Central Queensland Hydrogen (CQ-H2) project; this is a jointly funded federal and state investment for Queensland's largest green hydrogen venture and is expected to create around 9,000 jobs.

I want to make sure local school students in Gladstone are given the best chance to secure the hydrogen jobs of the future.

Last week I visited Gladstone State High School to check in on the progress of a new hydrogen training hub.

The State Government has invested \$5.5 million to upgrade the science block and develop a hydrogen hub at Gladstone State High School. This will inspire students to work in the field once they finish school.

Upgrades include a lab classroom with fixed and mobile workstations, a preparation and demo room and a chemical store room.

These students are the people who'll be running the industry in the years to come,



The Queensland hydrogen industry is expected to grow by \$19 million by 2040.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

so it's essential we make sure they have the tools available to get ready for the jobs this industry will provide.

I can imagine how excited and motivated students will be to get involved in this industry once they've experienced these facilities.

As a proud Member of Gladstone, I'm continuing to deliver these important infrastructure projects to our schools.

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\$1m boost for services

The successful applicants will implement projects to support workforce development, attraction and retention in the health and community services sectors and pave the way for the future of the sector.

These include

- Apunipima's Cape York Health Council (Cape York – 11 communities) \$258,934.
- Central Queensland Indigenous Development (Rockhampton) \$58,000
- Aged Care Workforce Alliance (statewide) \$165,000
- Multicultural Australia (South East Queensland) \$148,926
- Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (Brisbane) \$164,970
- True Relationships and Reproductive Health (statewide) \$150,000
- Mater Misericordiae Ltd (Brisbane) \$109,200

The projects focus on supporting First Nations people, young people and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to find work across the sector including in aged care and community mental health.

Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice, Di Farmer said the Queensland Government is committed to creating a skilled workforce for Queensland and good jobs for Queenslanders.

"Hospital, social assistance services and residential care services are predicted to grow by more than 20 per cent by 2024-25 and we need to attract and retain workers in the health and community services sector," she said.

"This funding will enable seven organisations to implement local solutions to ad-



Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice, Di Farmer. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

dress local workforce issues from Cape York to Brisbane and west to Woorabinda.

"It includes Apunipima's Cape York Health Council which will receive more than \$258,000 to implement improved employment pathways and upskilling programs across the north.

"The Aged Care Workforce Alliance will receive \$165,000 to support young people into the workforce with the development of a 'digital skills and mobility passport' that will assist with training, recruitment and rostering.

"These innovative projects are helping those who experience disadvantage in the workforce to find good jobs while providing vital services that support our communities."

Jobs Queensland Board Chair Donna Bonney said it is great to see such a wide variety of projects to be delivered by successful applicants.

"Jobs Queensland is committed to our partnership with CheckUP Australia, the Community Services Industry Alliance

(CSIA), Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) and The Services Union to deliver this project as part of the QCC program.

"The funding enables the strengthening of the Health and Communities Services sector workforces now and in the future, to attract and retain the best personnel who go on to deliver care for Queenslanders.

"This is a huge opportunity for workforce development in under-served areas of the sector."





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Want to be an engineer?

A new series of CQUniversity Engineering Cadetships will not only aim to inject much-needed talent into the engineering sector, but also create an employment avenue for students as early as their first year of studies.

Head of College for Engineering and Aviation Associate Professor Benjamin Taylor said the creation of the cadetships is CQU's response to the persisting labour shortage, which demands an immediate and sustained injection of talent into the engineering workforce throughout Queensland.

"CQU has engaged more than 40 major partner industries, including the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, BMA, Anglo American, Downer, Hastings Deering, Stanwell Corporation Limited and Aurizon to mention but a few to provide the cadetships," he said.

"Our model enables students from their first year of studies to enter the workforce and earn as they learn under an agreement to balance work and study commitments sustainably.

"We have already registered about 40 cadetships for students commencing in 2024."

Benjamin said the cadetships will also help retain talent in the regions and grow engineering capabilities for regional communities.

Students in CQUniversity's Associate Degree of Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering Technology, and any Bachelor of Engineering Honours course can apply for cadetships from employers representing Queensland's full breadth across the engineering profession from multi-national resources consortiums, Regional Councils, and small to large engineering consultancies.

"The Engineering cadets combine



CQUniversity has a new series of Engineering Cadetships.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

part-time or full-time employment with study, graduating confidently," Dr Taylor said.

"Many cadets also will directly enter their employer's graduate program. Cadets can apply what they learn at CQUniversity directly to the workplace, obtaining a deeper understanding of professional expectations and developing expert skills through immersion in real-world scenarios.

"Most cadetships will also include a rapid on-the-job training program to ensure software and design skills and procedural knowledge match their employer's needs.

"The cadetships will complement CQUniversity's Engineering Co-op program to maintain our reputation for producing Australasia's most work-ready engineering graduates."

Applications for cadetships will be through each employer's usual recruitment process, with links to all opportunities from the new CQU Cadetships website.

Applicants must show proof from CQUniversity of enrolment, a letter of offer, or a Principal's recommendation for any engineering course.

Award wins celebrated

The resources sector tonight celebrated the finalists and winners of the 2023 BHP Women in Resources National Awards (WIRNA) and the 10th anniversary of these honours.

The awards promote the resources industry as an employer of choice and highlight the value of an inclusive workforce. They leverage state/territory-based awards, drawing on their winners to be the finalists.

Women from various professions and across the nation were recognised tonight, including metallurgists, underground mining supervisors, research scientists, engineers, community relations officers, environmental chemists, data scientists, trade electricians, maintenance specialists and many more.

MCA Chair Andrew Michelmores said they celebrate a decade of promoting the sector as an industry of choice for women.

"The awards reflect not just the achievements of the finalists but the efforts across the industry to encourage and promote increased female participation in the sector. Stories of winners will inspire women to join the industry and girls to take up STEM studies," he said.

BHP President Australia Geraldine Slatery said workforce diversity will be key to creating a modern mining sector that realises our full potential, and it is terrific to see the growing number of women pursuing rewarding careers in mining across the full spectrum of technical and trade professions. "We celebrate the inspirational achievements of the winners and nominees of the Women in Resources National Awards, and recognise the valuable contribution of so many women to our industry, regional communities and the national economy," she said.

The winners of the BHP 2023 Women in Resources National Awards, announced at the National Portrait Gallery this evening, are:

Dyno Nobel Exceptional Woman in Australian Resources Award

Dr Bianca Newcombe, Principal Metallurgist of OptiFroth, for her tenacity to follow her passion and remain connected with industry, from taking up an industry-based PhD, to developing a niche business – along the way significantly contributing to the growth and participation of women in the sector.

Newcrest Exceptional Young Woman in Australian Resources Award

Megan Parry, Ecosystem Reconstruction Advisor with the Closure Studies Team at Energy Resources of Australia, for her rapid career progression, exemplary work and community-based activity to build the reputation of the industry, and commitment to forging meaningful connections with young women, Traditional Owners and the scientific community.

The Bloomfield Group Outstanding Australian Tradeswoman, Operator, or Technician Award

Lindsay Gerrard, Dual Trade Electrician at INPEX, for her notable career progression and significant contribution in both her workplace and community – demonstrated by her initiative in mentoring female and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander apprentices.

Newmont Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance Award

Rio Tinto Aluminium Women in Leadership Program for demonstrated success in increasing women in frontline leadership positions from 5 per cent to 18 per cent between Q3 2022 and Q2 2023, while challenging long-standing mindsets and recruitment practices, and promoting broader inclusion

and diversity.

Maptek Women in Resources Technological Innovation Award

Joana Sousa, Data Science Lead from BHP, for spearheading digital transformation at BHP through the successful application of machine learning and modeling the benefits of a career in technology to the next generation.

Rio Tinto Inclusion and Diversity Champion in Australian Resources Award

Lucy McClean, Chair of Women in Mining NSW, for her pivotal role in supporting and empowering women in the NSW resources sector and her enthusiasm for connecting young people to the industry.

The finalists of the 2023 BHP Women in Resources National Awards

Dyno Nobel Exceptional Woman in Australian Resources Award:

- Dr Chantel Westley of Rio Tinto in Western Australia
- Shannon Turner of Newmont Tanami in the Northern Territory
- Melanie Cooper of Rio Tinto in Queensland
- Kayla Williams of Bell Bay Aluminium in Tasmania
- Dr Bianca Newcombe of OptiFroth Solutions in New South Wales
- Dr Suneeti Purohit of CSIRO in Victoria

Newcrest Exceptional Young Woman in Australian Resources Award:

- Hollie Sampson of Whitehaven Coal in New South Wales
- Jessica Priest of GHD in Tasmania
- Megan Parry of Energy Resources of Australia in the Northern Territory
- Daisy Ambach of Glencore Zinc Australia in Queensland
- Zixuan Wang of Bell Bay Aluminium in Tasmania
- Rachel Peng of Agnico Eagle Fosterville Gold Mine in Victoria
- Kelsie Clarke of Woodside Energy Group in West-

ern Australia

The Bloomfield Group Outstanding Australian Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician Award:

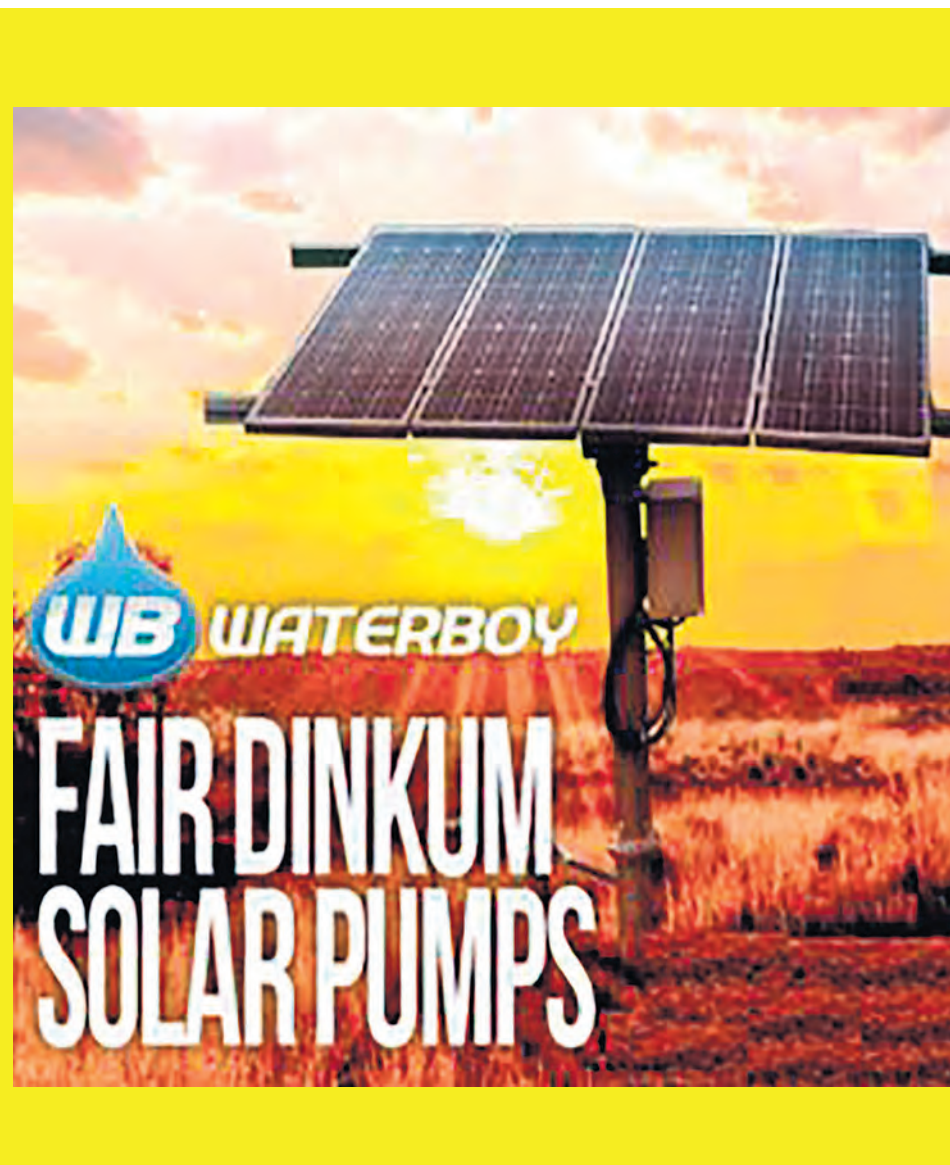
- Alia Melgin-Hill from Agnico Eagle Fosterville Gold Mine in Victoria
- Jacqueline Kelly of Shell QGC in Queensland
- Lindsay Gerrard of INPEX in the Northern Territory
- Julie Smith of Evolution Mining in New South Wales
- Melinda Clarke of Woodside Energy in Western Australia
- Teri Crawford of Bluestone Mines Tasmania Joint Venture in Tasmania

Newmont Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance Award:

- Rio Tinto's Indigenous Leadership Program in Queensland
- Rio Tinto's Building Everyday Respect in Western Australia
- Bell Bay Aluminium's Our roadmap to a more equitable, diverse and inclusive workplace in Tasmania
- Rio Tinto's Aluminium Women in Leadership Program in Northern Territory

Maptek Women in Resources Technological Innovation Award:

- Eva Lebedeva from Glencore McArthur River Mining in the Northern Territory
 - Samantha Langley from BHP in Western Australia
 - Joana Sousa of BHP in Queensland
 - Joanne Henry From WesTrac in New South Wales
- Rio Tinto Inclusion and Diversity Champion in Australian Resources Award:**
- Michael Erickson from AngloGold Ashanti Australia in Western Australia
 - Dahlia Docherty of Newmont Tanami in the Northern Territory
 - Joanna Stevens of Premier Strategy in Victoria
 - John Rann of Rio Tinto – Gove Operations in Northern Territory
 - Lucy McClean of Women in Mining in NSW
 - Larissa Walker of Shell QGC in Queensland



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Focusing on what counts

CQIC is a group of businesses and organisations dedicated to boosting economic growth in the region.

We are unincorporated, and have Collaborative in our title, to underline that any business or organisation is free to join if you share our vision and wish to work with us.

We see the potential of the CQ region and want more coal royalties returned to the region as a critical factor in supporting this growth potential.

We want economic development and sustainability through a pipeline of funded government projects for our region that provide sustainable positive legacies for our communities.

We have facilitated a series of workshops with businesses, other economic development organisations and councils that identified two main issues as critical to continued sustainable growth:

- Raising the capability of local businesses so that prime contractors do not automatically assume that there is insufficient local capability for their projects and preference suppliers from out of town.
- Identifying key, future major projects that will contribute to sustainable growth.
- There is nothing on the books post Ring Road
- Need to build on our strengths by expanding existing industries.
- And contribute to sustainability by diversifying into new areas
- All the factors and issues mentioned above are interconnected.
- This makes sequencing actions all the more critical.

Our possible target industries include:

- Strengthen existing



AMA's Marcus Lang, Fiona Simpson MP, David Janetzki MP, and Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce President Phillip Henry discussed the economic opportunities and infrastructure needs in the Central Highlands region. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

- Agribusiness and food processing
 - Tourism (especially Great Keppel Island)
 - Defence and defence support
 - Diversify into new.
 - Content production for movies, TV and online
 - Logistics
 - Renewable energy
- Obtain recognition of CQIC:**
- Formalise partnerships with other organisations including Advance Rockhampton, Capricorn Enterprise, Capricornia Chamber of Commerce, Queensland Resources

- Council, and others.
- Identify the major infrastructure and other projects needed in our communities that could provide regional economic development, growth, diversity and sustainability over the next 15 to 20 years.
- Identify the major supply chains required to deliver those major projects identified from within our regional businesses and communities and build that capability and capacity.
- Advocate for capability statements at the local/regional level (ie ensure all businesses have quality capability statements and

- that these are readily accessible by LGA
- As an organisation, liaise more closely with all levels of government.
- Actively advocate for more royalty revenue to be returned to the region.
- Obtain funding to assist businesses including website development, ISO accreditation, and Contractor Management continue to raise business awareness of the need to continually raise capability and to recognise the role of CQIC.
- Consider the need for incorporation at an appropriate time.

Industry *TODAY* partnering with



SUPPORTING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

CQIC priority project list

Please note the below information came out of the CQIC Industry Workshop March 9 2023. All of the replies were collated and reported in (no particular order) the list below.

Major government-managed projects greater than \$50 million which are vital for essential services and enabling key industries to operate in the Central Queensland region, including:

- Major Civil Infrastructure
- Rockhampton Ring Road
- Upgrading the surrounding roads in and out of Rockhampton to dual 110km/hr ie Rockhampton to Gladstone, Marlborough and Emerald
- Extending Inland Rail from Toowoomba to Gladstone
- Vehicle Charging Network
- Expansion of the electric vehicle charging network in CQ to support the transition to cleaner and more efficient transportation
- Marina Ferry Terminal and Facilities in the Fitzroy
- Develop a marina ferry terminal and facilities in the Fitzroy River to enhance the tourism and recreational potential of the riverfront
- Water Security
- Secure reliable and sustainable water sources for CQ to support the agricultural, industrial and residential needs of the region
- Airport International Status
- Upgrade and fund the Rockhampton Airport to international status to increase the connectivity and attractiveness of CQ as a destination for business and leisure travellers
- Create an accommodation hub at the airport to provide convenient and comfortable lodging options for visitors, locals and business travellers

- High-speed connectivity and WiFi
- Improve the high-speed connectivity and WiFi services in CQ to enable better communication, education and innovation opportunities for the region
- Defence Force Major Maintenance Base
- Establish a major maintenance base/hub for the defense force in CQ to leverage the existing facilities and proximity to the Shoalwater Bay Training Areas.
- Create a defense apprentice and traineeship program based in CQ, to provide skills development and employment opportunities for local youth
- Establish permanent Military Barracks in CQ to strengthen the defense presence and contribution to the region
- Establish a Major Munitions Portal in CQ to support the defense industry and supply chain in the region
- Major Industrial Park and Logistics Hub
- Create a major industrial park and logistics hub in CQ to attract and accommodate various industries and businesses that would benefit from the strategic location and resources of CQ
- Advanced Medical
- Enhance the advanced medical capabilities and services in CQ to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for residents and visitors
- Tax Breaks North of Sunshine Coast
- Offer tax breaks for businesses and individuals north of Sunshine Coast to incentivise investment and relocation to CQ
- Potential Non-Government Projects
- Establish space programs
- Establish and attract a permanent movie/cinema industry for Central and North Qld
- Transition power stations into renewables/nuclear/other

State heads to regions

The third Regional Community Forums of the year take place today as the State Government continues to drive change and deliver billions of dollars to the regions.

Cabinet Ministers and State Members will be out in force across rural and regional Queensland to maintain the conversation with forum members about the priorities and opportunities in seven regions.

Each forum also includes a presentation about the Q2032 Procurement Strategy, with its 'Buy Queensland' foundation supporting Queensland businesses to grow, win more work and showcase the best that our state has to offer in the lead-up to the Games.

It comes as the government announces a nation-leading new-look online procurement portal, which will be a one-stop shop for government contracts.

The new online platform will be launched in partnership with Local Buy and local government councils, which will reduce risks, time and costs associated with securing government contracts and allow suppliers to deal with both tiers of government through a single online profile.

The joint procurement platform will be managed by Local Buy, established by the Local Government Association of Queensland in 2001, and will become available later this year.

There is an anticipated \$180 billion of government procurement which can be shared by Queensland businesses over the next nine years.

Brisbane 2032 is also supporting schools, with 680 schools across the state receiving \$2.5 million in sporting equipment through the Go For Gold program, more than half of them in regional Queensland.

And it's expected that around 50 per cent of international travellers visiting as a result of Brisbane 2032 will disperse to Queensland's regions, stimulating a significant increase in overnight visitor expenditure.

The seven Regional Community Forums will be held in regional centres:

- Gracemere (Central Queensland)
- Charleville (Darling Downs South West region)
- Port Douglas (Far North Queensland)
- Bowen (Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region)
- Mount Isa (North and North West Queensland)
- Boulia (Western Queensland)
- Hervey Bay (Wide Bay Burnett Fraser Coast region)

The forum members are participating in their third of four forums for 2023.

Acting Premier Steven Miles said the government will always back regional Queensland as the backbone of our state's thriving industries.



Acting Premier Steven Miles.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

"The Regional Forums are another opportunity for wide-ranging discussions to take place between forum members and government representatives with a targeted focus on the region," he said.

"We have maintained that the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will benefit everyone across Queensland, which is why the Q2032 Procurement Strategy is so important.

"The Games are an opportunity for all of Queensland to come together and provide the building blocks that will make 2032 the event of a generation.

"I want to thank the forum members for their valuable work once again, and I emphasise that we are listening, and we are taking action on the priorities in the regions, so that all Queenslanders are supported towards a brighter future."

Minister for Public Works and Procurement Mick de Brenni said the State Government's Q2032 Strategy demonstrates how we are investing in regional Queensland and providing opportunities for all businesses to share in more than \$180 billion in procurement opportunities between now and then.

"In the many mighty Queensland regions and towns, it will help to grow local business, foster collaboration and deliver a real capacity uplift to ensure that the whole state can compete on the international stage," he said.

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water Glenn Butcher said the forums have been valuable for the Queensland Government to hear from people on the ground so that we continue to develop the regions and invest where it is needed most.

"We are supporting communities to address issues, create opportunities and benefit Queenslanders wherever they live," he said.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said rural and regional Queenslanders are at the heart of our state, which is why it is so valuable to have our conversations through the forums.

"The amazing commitment of the forum members demonstrates the importance of what we are achieving together, and I thank them for their great support," he said.

Darling Downs South West Queensland Regional Community Forum member Ron Petterson said through collaboration and using our combined knowledge, we can create effective plans to overcome important obstacles and take advantage of opportunities for long-term growth.

"With our collective and dedicated focus on fostering inventive solutions that empower our region, I'm confident that we can reach our objectives with dedication and effort," he said.

LGAQ President Mayor Mark Jamieson said Local Buy has a strong track record of supporting both our councils and suppliers.

"It is a great outcome that this platform is being expanded, offering a gateway for businesses to secure more work with government across Queensland," he said.

The Regional Community Forums are supported by the Office for Rural and Regional Queensland with one more round scheduled for 2023.

For more information, visit <https://campaigns.premiers.qld.gov.au/advancing-qld-regions/>

Sparking the flame of curiosity in our students

The flame of scientific curiosity was kindled once more in Gladstone on 13 September as students embraced the opportunity to supercharge their problem-solving skills at a workshop delivered by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA), the esteemed education arm of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC).

The "Powering our Future" workshop, held at Central Queensland University Marina Campus, unfolded as a fascinating journey into the world of energy generation, supply and demand, through support from ConocoPhillips Australia, as downstream operator of Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG).

Stakeholder Relations Manager at ConocoPhillips Australia, Ms Chantale Lane highlighted the unique aspects of the workshop, noting it encouraged students to analyse the proportion of renewables and grapple with the impacts of base and

peak loads on the NEM.

"Students analysed energy consumption across the different states and territories, and completed an engaging quiz, that helped them comprehend the energy market and explore issues surrounding renewable and non-renewable energy sources," Ms Lane said.

"These activities not only empowered students to understand the complexities of the energy network but it also cultivated their problem-solving skills and inspired them to develop innovative solutions for a future sustainable energy grid."

Tannum Sands State High School Principal, Mrs Heather Blessington praised the workshop as a transformative learning experience, commenting that the students' engagement went well beyond that seen in a traditional classroom lesson.

"Students were eagerly immersed in the world of renewable energy, learning how to harness solar power to generate hydrogen

and master the art of wind energy production whilst learning technical skills like using multimeters to measure power output are invaluable." Mrs Blessington said.

"Equally important was the exploration of the complex network of powerlines that connect our homes to the national grid where students gained a holistic understanding of energy distribution and consumption, which will undoubtedly serve them well in a world undergoing decarbonisation."

As Australia's largest and most successful industry-led education and schools initiative, the QMEA seeks to broaden student and teacher knowledge of career opportunities in resources.

The academy encourages a talent pipeline of employees into vocational and professional careers, with a focus on female and Indigenous participation. The QMEA currently engages with 98 schools and is a partnership between the QRC and the

Queensland Government under its Gateway to Industry Schools program.

Reflecting on the workshop's impact, QRC Director of Skills, Education and Diversity, Ms Katrina-Lee Jones said the unique experience, which was intricately linked with the Australian Curriculum, allowed more than 50 inquisitive Grade 8 students from Toolooa, Gladstone, Calliope, and Tannum Sands state high schools, and Chanel College to tap into real-time data from the National Energy Market (NEM).

"It's a timely opportunity as energy dynamics are rapidly evolving in Queensland and across the nation," Ms Jones said.

"Students were tasked with creating their own Energy Contracts for 2050, delving into factors such as renewable energy targets and peak demand forecasts, and it was inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and grasp of complex energy concepts."

Powering clean economy

The State Government has unveiled the first look at the future Stanwell Clean Energy Hub.

To begin the transformation of the Stanwell Clean Energy Hub, publicly owned energy company Stanwell Corporation will build the Future Energy and Innovation Training Hub (FEITH) valued at up to \$100 million.

The size of a shopping centre, the hub will provide the sandbox to test out innovative new energy technology including wind, solar, hydrogen and battery storage.

It will also provide a real-life, hands-on training environment for Queensland energy employees to develop the skills needed to work on renewable energy technologies.

The project is proposed to be delivered in phases, starting with the establishment of common infrastructure and civil works in late 2023.

Future phases include a skills academy and demonstration centre where the community can come to learn about new energy technologies. In its entirety, the project will cost over \$100 million and be deployed over five years.

The Stanwell Power Station, with a capacity of 1,460MW, is located between the potential future Capricorn and Calliope Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) as outlined in Queensland's Draft REZ Roadmap.

Those two zones alone are expected to connect between 1,900 and 3,800MW of installed generation, creating up to 650 construction jobs, supported by the Jobs Security Guarantee for the existing workforce.

Central Queensland's REZ covers 10 local government areas and supports the region's key industries of agriculture, construction, minerals processing, and manufacturing to meet their clean energy goals and demand from international markets.

Member for Keppel and Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure Brittany Lauga said this is concrete proof that the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is driving investment and new opportunities in our region, supporting workers to be partners in the energy transformation, and capturing new opportunities to create secure, ongoing, good jobs.

"Last year the Premier and I committed to not shut the gate on this power station and to give it a new life, with more workers, playing a leading role in the energy transformation—today, we deliver on that commitment," she said.

Member for Rockhampton and Queensland Hydrogen Champion Barry O'Rourke said they are delivering on our



Stanwell Corporation will build the Future Energy and Innovation Training Hub (FEITH) valued at up to \$100 million. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

commitment to reinvest in this power station with new renewable energy, renewable hydrogen, storage, and system strength infrastructure, leveraging the strategic advantages of the site.

"This investment locks in the opportunity for CQ workers to lead a green hydrogen industry with the potential to grow demand for renewable energy, assist in domestic supply for decarbonisation, and create the opportunity to export our CQ renewable resources to the world."

Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen Mick de Brenni said the nation cannot meet its legislated emissions reduction targets without serious action in Queensland, so we are delivering the energy transition that Queenslanders and Australians voted for.

"The first place the Premier and I went following the release of our plan was the Stanwell Power Station to give the workforce the Government's commitment to their job security and outline our blueprint to convert it into a Clean Energy Hub," Mick said.

"We're so serious about our plan that we're legislating our renewable energy targets—70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035—and putting our Jobs Security Guarantee into law."

"Because Queenslanders kept their energy network in public hands, they have unprecedented control over the destiny of their energy system in its transition to 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032.

"While other states are scrambling to get out of coal-fired power, or even prop it up for longer, it's Queensland who is now leading the nation's orderly climate and energy transition.

"The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is the most comprehensive, accountable, realistic, transparent, and effective plan for an energy transition—not just in the nation—but quite possibly the world.

"Our Queensland Draft Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap demonstrates our unique ability to deliver benefits for local communities through infrastructure, transport, housing and accommodation, workforce, supply chains, waste management, biodiversity protection other land uses, and social infrastructure, as well as local industry and First Nations considerations.

"We need to set the standard because public ownership gives us an extra layer of accountability to our workers, communities, and the environment, as well as to energy security and affordability for households and businesses.

"We've always said that Queensland's publicly owned power stations will continue to play an important role in our future energy system as clean energy hubs because they are located in strong parts of the network with strategic advantages like grid connection, a highly skilled workforce, established community relationships, and land."

Chair of the Net Zero Economy Agency, Hon Greg Combet AM said the Stanwell

Clean Energy Hub will play an important role in unlocking investment in net zero economic transformation to support Queensland's energy transition.

"During my recent travel to Queensland I was impressed by the commitment of the Queensland Government, local governments, industry, and communities to work together towards an orderly transition that capitalises on emerging energy technology opportunities," he said.

"The Net Zero Economy Agency has been established to ensure that the workers, industries, and communities that have powered Australia for generations can seize the opportunities of Australia's transition to a net zero economy. This project is a great example of a regional community in Queensland working together for a better future."

Stanwell Chief Executive Officer, Michael O'Rourke said the FEITH project will be the visible bright spark of Stanwell's transformation to clean energy and our vision is for FEITH to be a catalyst for advancing the energy transformation, not just at Stanwell, but for the entire State.

"It will increase our understanding of new energy technologies and their application in building Stanwell's renewable energy portfolio and driving the development of Queensland hydrogen industry," he said.

"And just as importantly, it will help us create the energy workforce Queensland needs for the future through hands-on skills development and training."

Welding their way to better training services

Weld Australia designed and created a suite of resources for the delivery of the 12 welding and fabrication units of competency in the Manufacturing and Engineering (MEM) Training Package.

Weld Australia formed a national consortium of TAFEs to work on the project.

Over the last two years, the consortium has collaborated with us to develop the most engaging, up-to-date resources possible. Members of the consortium piloted the use of the resources, and some TAFEs have already permanently adopted them.

Weld Australia's MEM Resources have been built with students, teachers and training organisations in mind.

It reimagines the learning process with its user-friendly interface, diversified delivery methods, and audited and accurate material.

The new MEM resources are completely online and accessible via the phone, mobile device, or computer.

This allows students to access learning at the time, place and pace that suits them best.

South Metropolitan TAFE in Fremantle,

Western Australia was the first training organisation to facilitate an official pilot.

The feedback received from students and lecturers alike was extremely positive.

Executive Director – Engineering, Transport and Defence, South Metropolitan TAFE Jonathon Maile said the resources have been terrific, not only for our team here at South Metro TAFE, but we've also upheld these and shared these with some external customers as well. So from a quality perspective, the resources have been tremendous.

"Being able to link in with Weld Australia and other TAFEs, improved training outcomes—there is a better consistency from a technical perspective Australia-wide," he said.

"It has improved our focus on digitisation and e-learning and increased the flexibility of how we deliver.

"We're able to utilise these training resources in class to support lecturers.

"If apprentices miss classes, they can access the resources and catch up a lot more quickly than trying to reschedule another block later on."



Weld Australia will launch a new suite of learning resources for the Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package. Picture: CONTRIBUTED



Community Support Success

RACQ CapRescue is dedicated to not only promoting and funding the life-saving service but also offering a platform to celebrate sponsors, supporters, and the region. As a result, the past few months have been busy, with plenty of opportunities for the community to support the rescue service.

On Friday, 21st July, guests dressed to the nines for the biennial CapRescue Ball. The event welcomed guests with the impressive AgustaWestland 139 (AW139) helicopter on-site, offering them the chance to chat with the crew and capture twilight photos before heading upstairs.

The highlight was the captivating story shared by past patient Kev Mauger, who expressed his profound gratitude. Kev recounted his journey of survival, from harrowing injuries to a challenging recovery, ultimately thanking his "Sky Angels" through a touching song.

On Sunday, 30th July, the Rescue300 helicopter landed at Gladstone Ports Corporation Marina Parklands for the Gladstone Community Open Day. Families from across the region enjoyed a fun and educational event, meeting local heroes and exploring the rescue helicopter up close.

The last Sunday in August saw a vibrant crowd gather at St Aubin's Village to

celebrate the onset of Spring while supporting CapRescue. Now in its second year, the afternoon event allowed guests to relish the changing season while enjoying delicious food, lively entertainment, and excellent company.

Since its inception in 2015, the CapRescue Degustation has been a culinary highlight on the region's event calendar. In 2023, it did not disappoint. It was a remarkable dining experience featuring renowned chef and regional food ambassador Matt Golinski and special guest Glen Barratt, who presented a superb six-course degustation celebrating local produce, each course thoughtfully paired with premium beverages from Brockenchack Winery and Capricorn Distilling Co.

By attending these events over the past two months, the community has helped to raise over \$80,000 for our life-saving cause!

You still have a chance to help make a difference by attending our final event, Colour me Capricorn Gladstone, which will take place on Sunday, 15th October, at the GPC's Marina Parklands.

Of course, we conclude the year with the drawing of winners for the ever-popular Monster Christmas Seafood raffle, with tickets available for purchase now. You have to be in it to win it!



Burns Safety Reminder

Early Saturday morning on August 19th, RACQ CapRescue was tasked to attend a boat ramp at the Narrows in the vicinity of Mt Larcom.

A woman in her 60s was camping with friends and had fallen and landed with a hand in the campfire.

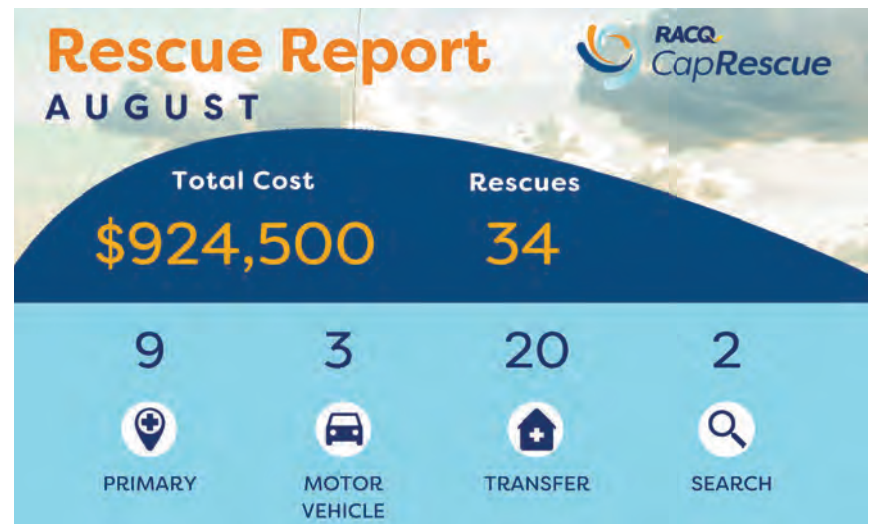
Upon the arrival of Rescue300, the lady was further treated by the onboard Doctor and Critical Care Paramedic and stabilised for air transport to Rockhampton Base Hospital. The patient was to be transferred to a Brisbane burns unit for advanced medical care.

It was a timely reminder as many in CQ

enjoy a campfire away or at home to brush up on their Burns First Aid.

Follow these tips:

- Stop the burning process.
- If clothing is on fire, stop, drop and roll to put out the flame.
- Put out the fire with water or smother with a coat of blanket made of natural fibres, such as cotton or wool.
- Call triple zero (000)
- Stay on the phone with the emergency operator.
- Apply cool running water to the affected area as soon as possible for at least 20 minutes or until emergency services personnel arrive.



RACQ CapRescue

Monster Seafood Raffle

\$2

1st Prize - \$1,000 Seafood Voucher
2nd Prize - \$700 Seafood Voucher

Scan for tickets

Roslyn Bay FISH MARKET

COLOUR ME capricorn

Gladstone - Oct 15
GPC Marina Parklands

Scan to purchase your tickets

RACQ CapRescue
A big region needs a fast response.

Aldi stores pick Aus avos

Avocados Australia has welcomed the news that ALDI has become the first Australian supermarket to exclusively range 100 per cent Australian Avocados in all of their 586 stores, ahead of a strong Summer season.

Whether Avo lovers prefer them smashed, sliced, or diced, this is certainly welcome news, as data released by Avocados Australia, the peak industry body for Australian avocado producers, shows that in 2021/22 avo-hungry Australians consumed about 4.76kg of avocados per person.

With Australian production more than doubling over the past 10 years, the demand for Australian-grown avocados is continuing to gain strong traction, as consumers look to support local growers and regional communities.

Avocados Australia has welcomed ALDI's commitment to stocking 100 per cent Australian-grown avocados, with CEO John Tyas explaining, ALDI's commitment to stock Australian avocados exclusively for this season ahead is a positive step forward for the industry given the strong supply we have forecasted from the region.

"The Australian avocado industry invests heavily in delivering consistent and high-quality Australian avocados to consumers, so this is a great win for consumers, ALDI and the Australian industry," he said.

Group Director, Produce at ALDI Australia

lia Matt Atley said avocados have well and truly become a staple in many of their customer's weekly shops.

"By making this commitment this year, we are proud to be forming long-term relationships with local growers and supporting them and their businesses to grow," he said.

"Seeing that Avo farmers around Australia are having a strong start to the season, particularly through the September to February harvesting period means we can meet our customers' insatiable demand for avos with purely Aussie fruit.

"It is always our intention to support Aussie growers first, so it makes complete sense for us to stock only Australian avocados in our stores.

"We work closely with all our Aussie growers to ensure a wide range of quality produce is available at affordable prices in all our ALDI stores.

"Our Aussie first supplier policy means that we turn to our local Aussie growers for more than 97 per cent of the produce in our stores.

"It is only when we can't get the volume, or the items are out of season, that we have to look outside Aussie shores to meet demand."

Avocados Australia CEO, John Tyas said excellent growing conditions in Western Australia and Tristate this year mean that there will be a great supply over the summer season.

mer season.

"It is great to see ALDI take this opportunity and demonstrate their support for Australian farmers by choosing not to import any avocados this season," he said.

Brad Rogers, Avocado grower and Chair of the industry body said Australian retailers have first-sourcing policies and these policies play an important role in the sustainability of the avocado industry here in Australia.

"It's great to see ALDI stand by their commitment to support Australian farmers first particularly considering that we have a strong supply of quality Australian avocados this summer season," he said.

"This commitment puts money back into Aussie farms like ours so that we can continue to deliver fresh avos for consumers into the future."

The updated long-term forecast suggests Australia's avocado production is expected to continue to increase to about 170,000 tonnes by 2026.

Avocados Australia expects Australia's reliance on imported Avocados to diminish, as Australian growers can supply all year round.



CEO of Avocados Australia John Tyas. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

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