

# MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION NEWS




Community &amp; Employee Newsletter - April 2024

Issue 18

## 2024 Cultural Spectacular launched



Pictured left, The MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation (MACH) Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) has launched their fourth Cultural Spectacular to be held at the Muswellbrook Showground in 2024. The Spectacular is a free family event celebrating Aboriginal culture, history, and community. Follow the Event Social Media channels, listed below, for further information and updates.

-  <https://culturalspectacular.com.au/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/culturalspectacular/>
-  <https://www.instagram.com/culturalspectacular>

## Cultural Heritage Training

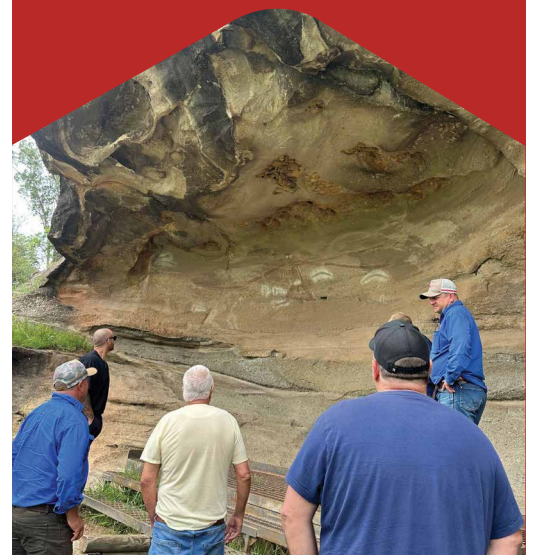
Pictured below, MACH's Land & Property Officers, Sandy Lettice, and Rich Ali together with Environmental Advisor Mariah Lane, joined with local community and businesses to take part in a two-day Cultural Heritage Training program developed and facilitated by the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Muswellbrook's Uncle Glen (Bing) Morris. The program included visiting sites of cultural significance including Baiame Cave, Milbrodale. Uncle Glen has now completed two training programs catering to more than 50 attendees. Funds to enable the training program were sought through a successful application to the ACDF via [www.machenergy.com.au/acdf](http://www.machenergy.com.au/acdf)



## Giving back to the community

Pictured above left, food, toys, and general gifts accompanied a donation to Blackroo's Steve Fordham for the annual Blackroo Christmas Food & Toy Appeal.

Pictured above right, as most families were thinking about their Christmas gift list, Archie, Max, Millie, and Hannah were on hand to help Sandy and the MACH team with gift wrapping and packing at the Muswellbrook Basketball Stadium.





## 10.5Mt Milestone

Pictured above, MACH, Thies and Sedgman employees gathered to mark the 10.5Mt milestone for the Mount Pleasant Operation in December 2023.



## Technology assists weed mapping

Pictured left, the XAG P100 Pro agricultural drone in use on MACH offset properties to assist with weed mapping. MACH engaged Delta Land Management to conduct the drone trial at St Antoine specifically targeting St John's Wort.

## Upgraded connections to aid fire fighting

Pictured right, one of the recently installed water tanks on MACH off-set land with the upgraded 65mm Storch connections. MACH's Sandy Lettice said the Storz fittings are firehose fittings featuring interlocking hooks and flanges.

"This fitting is widely used to connect hoses to fire hydrants, and pumps that deliver water to fire sprinklers, and standpipe systems."

"Storz couplings attach and detach hoses quickly and reliably using push, twist, and lock movements", he added.



## Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project Update

The NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project with conditions on 6 September 2022, following a public hearing held in July 2022. The next step in the Project approvals process is determination of the proposal under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). MACH Energy anticipates that the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water will determine the Project proposal under the EPBC Act in 2024.

The Optimisation Project would allow the mine to expand and continue operations to 2048, supporting the ongoing employment of the existing workforce and significant additional contributions to the local, NSW and Australian economy. However, the Denman, Aberdeen, Muswellbrook and Scone Healthy Environment Group Inc has applied for a judicial review of the IPC's decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court.

The extended time period required for the NSW Land and Environment Court judicial review case has created approvals uncertainty for the Mount Pleasant Operation. MACH is therefore seeking an

extension to the approved mining period under the existing Development Consent (DA 92/97) to provide operational certainty for MACH, and certainty for existing employees, contractors, and the community that the Mount Pleasant Operation will continue to operate beyond 2026.

This proposed life extension under Development Consent (DA 92/97) will be known as Modification 7 and would primarily include an extension of permitted mining operations to the end of 2032. Other lesser components include an increase in the ROM coal extraction rate to 12Million tonnes per annum, and a refined alignment for the Northern Link Road.

MACH has conducted community consultation activities on Modification 7 to update social impact assessment findings, and it is anticipated that the Modification assessment documentation will be publicly exhibited by the NSW Government in Quarter 2, 2024. MACH will provide further updates as we progress through the assessment process. Further information On Modification 7 can also be obtained from the NSW Planning Portal:<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mount-pleasant-modification-7>



## Muswellbrook High School Business Breakfast

Pictured above, MACH's External Relations Manager, Ngaire Baker, right, attended the Muswellbrook High School Business breakfast where students were given the opportunity to present on current projects and aspects of their high school experience to local business representatives. Also attending from the left, Muswellbrook TAFE's Head Teacher, Rosemarie Colosi and Manager Mel White with the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's Communication Manager Cate Sims.



## Denman and District Heritage Village

Pictured above, The Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council, Cr Steve Reynolds and members of the Wolfgang family cut the ribbon to officially open the Denman and District Heritage Village. MACH was thrilled to be able to contribute to the building which houses a collection, primarily composed of objects and artefacts donated by President Jeff Wolfgang. Among the display is a "mantrap" and ball and chain from convict days; the town's first bucket-filled fire pump made by Shand Mason of London; a 1958 Goggomobile, and much more. The mayor said, "the town of Denman and the surrounding rural areas have a keen sense of local identity and character. The heritage village will provide not only a focal point to celebrate this, but a living and tangible means of communicating the history, identity, and uniqueness of the local area."



## New native plant nursery

Pictured left, MACH's Environmental Adviser Mariah Lane at the newly established Warrawee Nursery with Troy Van Balen from Eco Works. The nursery is located on an existing seed harvesting facility on MACH owned land.



## Teams recognise IWD 24

Pictured above, left and right, Mount Pleasant teams stepped outside the square this year to put a more personal touch on International Women's Day (IWD). The global day, celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievement of women, saw teams of two equipped with a specific question



relating to IWD set up at tables around the pre-start facility. In the spirit of the day, teams approached the tables and engaged in a conversation based on the specific question for that table. The conversation was robust and the general consensus, "it was the best IWD event I have attended."






Can you count the objects below and write them in their circles?



## Interesting facts about coal

- Coal is a hard rock which can be burned as a solid fuel. It contains mostly carbon but also contains hydrogen, sulphur, oxygen and nitrogen.
- It is a sedimentary rock formed from peat, by the pressure of rocks laid down later on top. Peat, and therefore coal, is formed from the remains of plants that lived millions of years ago.
- Coal can be burned for energy or heat, like in generating steam to turn the turbines of power stations, or in the manufacturing processes used for making steel and cement.
- Coal was first mined by convicts near the mouth of the Hunter River, then called Coal River after the valuable resource was located nearby. Coal soon became Australia's first commodity export with the first coal shipment leaving Newcastle for India in 1799.
- Coal is used for energy generation, cement making and water filtration. More than 220 tonnes of coal are required to build a wind turbine.
- Black coal used to generate electricity is called thermal coal, energy coal or steaming coal, and there is an abundance of this high-quality black coal in NSW. In fact, NSW coal is considered some of the highest quality coal, which is why it is in such strong demand in our region of the world.

### COUNT THE OBJECTS

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#### 24/7 Operation

The Mount Pleasant Operation operates on a 24-hour, seven day a week roster.

#### Contact Us

Please contact the following FREE CALL numbers 24 hours a day, seven days a week if you have any questions or concerns.

**Community Hotline – 1800 886 889 | Blasting Hotline – 1800 931 872 | General Enquiries – 1800 931 873**

Our goal is to respond to your community feedback as quickly as possible.

Further information, including blast times and location can be found on our website

[www.machenergy.com.au](http://www.machenergy.com.au) or by emailing [info@machenergy.com.au](mailto:info@machenergy.com.au)

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Mount Pleasant Operation