



MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION NEWS



Community & Employee Newsletter - December 2023

Issue 17

Switch to solar to power the Main Infrastructure Area

Hunter Valley based business MV Solar recently completed the installation of a 99.75kW solar system on the roof of MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) Mine Industrial Area (MIA), pictured right. The solar system matches the MIA electricity usage including powering two Electric Vehicle charging stations.

A total of 266 solar panels (@375W), all with micro grid inverters to monitor output from each panel were installed with results showing days of surplus production going back into the MPO grid to help power the Coal Handling Preparation Plant and other powered items on site including pumps and water fill points.



Tiger Orchid

The Tiger Orchid (*Cymbidium canaliculatum*) was first detected on the Mount Pleasant Operation mining lease in 2019. Endangered in the Hunter Catchment, the Tiger Orchid is an epiphytic orchid which grows in the hollows and forks of eucalypts and wattles, usually occurring singly or as a single clump, typically between two and six metres above the ground.

Following identification, five of the six specimens were translocated in 2019 and 2020 and are constantly monitored for health and growth. In mid-2023 they were found to be displaying the iconic yellow and purple patterned flower.

Pictured above, Environment Adviser Mariah Lane inspecting the flowering Tiger Orchid.

Communications upgrade at Merton Village

Pictured below, from left, Merton Living Denman resident Norah Higgins and General Manager Shani Mitchell in front of one of the two televisions purchased through sponsorship from MACH Energy Mount Pleasant Operation. Shani said the televisions will be used for a variety of purposes throughout the complex, including the very popular Sunday afternoon movie sessions.





MACH Energy contribute to new Animal Care Facility & Sustainability Hub

Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) acknowledged a funding contribution from MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) toward their newly opened \$2.55 million Animal Care Facility & Sustainability Hub opened recently in Sydney Street.

MSC Mayor Councillor Steve Reynolds, pictured above with invited guests, said the Animal Care Facility and relocation of the Sustainability Hub, including the community garden, will provide the community with a best practice multi-purpose space focused on the benefits of responsible pet ownership and wellbeing.

"The shelter is set to become a focal point for animal care in the region and includes 30 outdoor kennels, a cattery, community meeting room and a stock impound area for larger animals," added the Mayor.

MACH's General Manager Mick Redman pictured above, second from the left, at the recent opening.



Approvals 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 (MACH) anticipates that the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water will determine the Project proposal under the EPBC Act in the first half of 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 (DAMSHEG) 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 (MPO). 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 MPO 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 12 Million tonnes per annum, and a refined alignment for the Northern Link Road.

MACH has commenced initial community consultation activities on Modification 7 and will provide further updates as we progress through the assessment process.



Jumping high at the Merriwa Springtime Show



A highlight on the Merriwa community calendar for 2023 was the return of the Merriwa Springtime Show. Held in September the action-packed show captivated audiences over two days. With off-set properties located in the Merriwa community, MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation was pleased to assist with sponsorship for the event. Pictured left, the dog high jump event was the place to be to watch different breeds displaying their speed and agility.



Soil turns on first station for Kayuga RFS

As they approach their 93rd birthday, the Kayuga Rural Fire Service (RFS) Brigade will have their first station in Kayuga Village by mid-2024.

Over the past five years, MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation has supported the brigades ongoing efforts to see their plans come to fruition.

Pictured above, Brigade Captain Stephen Lonergan, Senior Deputy Captain Jayden Hollis and Deputy Captain and longest serving volunteer Jim Lonergan, who also had the honour of turning the soil, were joined by Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) Mayor Councillor Steve Reynolds, MSC staff, community members and RFS officers from the operations centre at Bulga to celebrate this significant milestone.



Golfers in the swing for charity

Supporting the Muswellbrook Cats Australian Football Club, Steve Jones Memorial Charity Golf Day, MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation's Environment Adviser Mariah Lane was on hand after a competitive round of golf with fellow teammates to present the winner's trophy to team captain Dom White, pictured above, with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Regional Partnerships Officer Danny Eather.



King of the Ranges

Proudly referred to as "The Bush Festival" the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge returned to Murrurundi in September. Thanks to the team of volunteers for an outstanding local event, one that MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Operation is thrilled to support.

Pictured left, a snapshot of the action in the Poly Buck Jumping event. A perfect image taken by Trish Taylor.



Can you finish the crossword using the pictures as clues?



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

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We would like to wish our community members and employees a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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 or by emailing info@machenergy.com.au

