

Mount Pleasant Operation News

Community & Employee Newsletter - March 2023

Issue 14

Collaboration continues with University of Newcastle

As a newly formed operation, MACH Energy (MACH) approached the University of Newcastle (UoN) in late 2018 about the various research project opportunities available through their research unit, Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources (NIER).

From their website, "NIER's research teams and industry partners are supported by a best practice engagement model that drives innovative outcomes and solutions." <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/centre/nier>

Working with both Professor Ken Williams, Academic Convenor – Doctoral Training Centre for Resources, Research Director and Lead – Centre for Bulk Solids and Particulate Technologies, NIER, School of Engineering and College of Engineering, Science and Environment and Dr Dusan Ilic, Senior Research Associate, School of Engineering, College of Engineering, Science and Environment, Centre for Bulk Solids and Particulate Technologies, NIER and their team of researchers MACH is currently working with NIER to undertake the following research projects at the Mount Pleasant Operation.

- Dust Lidar, MACH support local PhD Candidate Liam Sutton to undertake this project.
- Tailings to Topsoil, a collaborative project with Bengalla and Muswellbrook Shire Council.
- BioMass for BioEnergy Project in collaboration with CSIRO and UoN.

Through the work with the Dust Lidar project, Dr Ilic and UoN colleague Aleksej Lavrinec recognised that there was an opportunity to trial low-cost sensors in parallel with the Dust Lidar work and Mount Pleasant's real time monitoring network. The ability to do this was very straightforward at the time given the work at Mount Pleasant they only required a suitable site to locate the sensors.

Dr Ilic advised that the project was initiated through discussions with Coal Services, a specialised health and safety scheme for the NSW coal mining industry and its workers and although the application is currently focused on air quality in the health component more so than environmental monitoring, there could be benefits for MACH in terms of environmental reporting.

For calibration purposes, the sensors need to be located near an environmental receiver. MACH's environmental monitoring receivers at a location close to the Mount Pleasant Operation was selected and the sensors are now in place, as pictured.

Dr Ilic added that if the trial is successful, there could be further monitoring opportunities for MACH in relation to air quality, including the following -

- Increased coverage of real-time dust emissions across site
- Improved identification of high dust generating mining dust activities and definition of baseline levels of dust
- Assessment of contributing factors for dust exposure
- Improved identification of dust mitigation priorities
- Improved identification of similar exposure groups
- Assessing respirable dust concentrations and comparison to Workplace Exposure Standards and
- Integration into environmental management system and air quality and greenhouse gas management place.



Local Aboriginal Artist designs a winning look for representative netball uniform

Following a lengthy process from concept to reality, the new Muswellbrook representative netball team uniform was unveiled recently for the 2023 representative season.

MACH was thrilled to be able to support this initiative involving a local business and a community sporting organisation.

According to artist and businessman Mat Stair, the design tells a story of our area, with beautiful contemporary Aboriginal art combined with the vibrant Muswellbrook Netball Association colours of green, yellow, and white.

Pictured, Mat Stair with recipient of the 2022 Representative Convenors Award, Lauren Neverov, who was selected to model the new uniform.

Banner image: A stunning pink sky captured by Sedgman's Ben Evans.



Kayuga RFS inspect our fire trails

Pictured, MACH's Land & Property Officer Rich Ali, far right, with Stephen Lonergan Captain of the Kayuga RFS, left, and members of the brigade following their annual inspection of our fire trails. Thanks to all at Kayuga RFS for your great work for our community.

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 final Consent Conditions, Public Hearing Transcript, and submissions to the IPC regarding the Project can be found on the IPC's website:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2022/05/mt-pleasant-optimisation-project-ssd-10418>

MACH Energy would like to thank all community members who participated in the IPC process, and particularly the 680+ people and organizations who supported the Project via a positive submission.

Prior to MACH commencing on-site activities in support of the Project, the next step in the 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 the first half of 2023.



Community Christmas gathering a success

Pictured, great to see and be able to support the Waagan Galga Community Christmas gathering. According to organiser Jade Perry it was a successful afternoon with more than 200 community members attending.

University of Newcastle environmental vacation student

Following an approach to MACH's external relations manager in 2021, regarding vacation work at Mount Pleasant, former Singleton High School student and now second year UoN student, Ashlee Cox applied for and was successful in gaining a position as a vacation student with the Thiess environmental team following the successful completion of her first year of study. Ashlee made the most of the opportunity undertaking a special project to monitor bird species on the rehabilitation and she immersed herself in all aspects of the environmental role on site. Ashlee's dedication and passion for all she undertakes has also led to ongoing work with Thiess at Mount Pleasant. Ashlee will continue her studies and said she looks forward to learning so much more and is thankful to MACH and Thiess teams for the opportunity she has been given.

Pictured, Liam Sutton, far right, explains the Dust LiDAR to Ashlee Cox and environmental contractor John Trotter with UoN site representative Technical Services Manager Paul O'Loughlin.



Books and farm animals at Merriwa Playgroup

Pictured, our external Relations Manager can be seen at a variety of events, meetings, and activities around the community, however, a recent request for support from Merriwa Playgroup also included an invitation to read a book or two and join the mornings activities with parents and children. The funding provided enabled the playgroup to purchase much needed equipment including farm animal sets which, according to coordinator Tash and parents have been "incredibly popular with all the children."



Supporting the Singleton PCYC community family day

Pictured, thanks to the Singleton PCYC for inviting us to the 2023 Community Family Day. Despite the warm weather it was a perfect day to connect, chat, watch awesome Aboriginal dancing and listen to up and coming musical talent. Thanks to our Aboriginal Community Development Fund members Malcolm Franks and Aunty Jean Hands for your help on the day.

Community Consultative Committee on site



Pictured, members of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) toured Mount Pleasant prior to their December 2022 meeting. Included in their site visit was the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Stage 2 embankment construction progress. Construction was completed in early 2023



Operations team wrap up and pack up for a community Christmas

Pictured, Richard and Rod take charge at the basketball stadium to sort, wrap, and pack hundreds of gifts and food items for local children and families.

Pictured, on site we wrapped and hand wrote 200 gifts and cards for residents of local retirement villages and nursing homes.



Wedgetail Eagle keeps an eye on the locals

Pictured, our resident wildlife photographer Angus Barrey snapped this stunning Wedgetail Eagle keeping an eye on the locals.

Family members help with community Christmas wrapping

Pictured, as most children were thinking about their Christmas gift list, Archie, Max and Millie Lettice were on hand to help the MACH team and dad Sandy, Land and Property Officer, with gift wrapping and packing for the community at the Muswellbrook Basketball Stadium. Surely the most awesome Christmas Elves in Muswellbrook.



Cricketers go Pink for a worthy cause

Pictured, in temperatures nudging 40 degrees at the Belltrees Cricket Ground, the Belltrees and Rouchel cricket clubs donned their pinks and whites in the name of charity. An annual event, this long held tradition between local clubs dates back to the 1900's. This year, the game doubled as an opportunity to raise funds for the Jane McGrath Foundation. It was a good day to be a spectator, taking advantage of the shade provided by the massive gums lining the field. Rouchel won bragging rights at the end of the day, however, everyone dug deep to raise much needed funds for the Foundation and the desperate need for more breast care nurses. We look forward to supporting the Belltrees club next season.

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

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