



Plant grows

Work is proceeding well on the extensions to the preparation plant at Goonyella Mine.

Started last September, the extensions are expected to be completed by mid-year and the first coal put through by July 31.

The extensions to the preparation plant are needed to handle the extra 1.1 million tonnes of coal which will come from the Cleanskin expansion project.

Preparation Plant Superintendent Neil Robertson said the plant was being extended on three sides, the south, north and west, to add two independent modules to the existing six.

This will raise the capacity to handle the mine's annual production from 4.4 million tonnes to 5.5 million tonnes. The preparation plant currently has the capacity to produce 1,020 tonnes of product coal an hour and this will be lifted to 1,280 tonnes when the extensions come into operation.

As well as the work on the actual plant, a duplication of the existing raw coal facilities is underway. The existing Run of Mine facility has two lines at the breaker station, each line consisting of a scalping screen/rotary breaker combination.

The duplicate facilities will have a single line, with one scalping screen preceding a rotary breaker, and is designed to handle about 100 tonnes an hour.

SCOUTS GO TO WATER

Moranbah Boy Scouts now have their own private camp and activities area — thanks to Peak Downs Mine.

And, because of the damming of Harrow Creek for a haul road crossing and to provide a supply for road watering, the scouts have access to water activities for the first time.

Said leader Bruce Robbie: "There is about a kilometre of backed-up stream in the area set aside for the scouts on which they can use their four canoes and 18 foot sail boat."

"The area set aside for their use is three to four acres of flat bushland, surrounded by hills. There has been no development of the site, it has been left in its natural state for scouting activities."

The only work done was to improve an existing access road with a grader supplied by the mine. The improved access also benefits the grazier who has a grazing lease in the area — giving him access to his fenceline.

The safety aspect of having the boys on a mining lease was carefully considered, but there is no danger of the boys accidentally wandering onto the mine's operating area.

The area was found by former Peak Downs Senior Mining Engineer, Chris Buck. He had been looking for such an area to save the scout troop having to move from place to place to carry out their scouting activities. It is also expected to be used by scout groups in the Central Highlands as a district camp.

Aiming for the heights

Goonyella apprentice Duncan Sanford is well into his second year of training with some fairly clear notions of how to become a top tradesman.

"I've learned that I shouldn't be afraid to ask questions, and I should expect the best from myself," he said.

With a family background in mining — Duncan's father works at the nearby Riverside Mine — apprentice diesel and heavy earthmoving equipment fitter Duncan said his first year on site had brought relatively few surprises.

"I had a fair idea what to expect so it wasn't difficult to settle in," he explained. "There are some good people here who are always prepared to help apprentices... but it never hurts to ask for help if you're not sure."

"One very good thing about the job is that we're encouraged to take responsibility for how we are going. I like to feel a sense of pride and satisfaction and I like to have my own set of standards, personal standards."

Duncan said he'd considered a university course after a solid performance in his senior years at school.

"I had a think about that and I decided to take a trade first. I might get this under my belt and then look at engineering. Further than that I can't predict. I'll just try to get the most out of whatever I decide to do," he said.



Turner takes bronze

Peak Downs second year apprentice diesel fitter Brad Turner only took a bronze medal at the Work Skill Australia competition, but he is as proud of it as he would have been with a gold.

"After all," he said, "I was only in my second year and competing against mostly fourth year apprentices. I was on top of the world when they announced I'd won the bronze medal."

"It was during the toolbox meeting held to discuss the Work Skill competition that I decided to have a go. I thought I had no chance at all of any

kind of place, but I decided to enter for the experience."

Brad said even at that stage he had intended to enter Work Skill as a serious contender in his third year and now with a bronze medal under his belt in the Plant Mechanics Section, there will be no stopping him.

"Diesel fitting is tops," says Brad. "I love it, but then there's no use doing something you don't enjoy. I even gave away sport for the job — I don't think I have time for both."

It has been a good year for Brad. The week after he won his Bronze Medal, he was notified by the

Mount Gravatt TAFE College in Brisbane that he had won the award for top release studies.

He was flown to Brisbane by Peak Downs Mine to receive a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement and a cheque to help towards book purchase for his studies.

Brad has had straight honours in both his first and second release years. "I do study a lot — perhaps a bit more than most. I listen hard in the classroom. That's where you really learn. If you don't pick up there, even a lot of study won't make much difference," he said.

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