



ISSUE 13 | April 2024

Continuation Project a vital local economic anchor



HVO GM Dave Foster addressing the Business Hunter Energy and Resources forum. Photo courtesy AJM Photography.

Our mine supports more than 1,350 employees and contractors. That's career opportunities for many local people as well as income for them and their families that they spend locally. We have 38 apprentices too. Local men and women who are getting work and superb training in trade skills they will have for life, without having to leave our region.

I mentioned in an update on our proposal to continue mining at the first Business Hunter Energy and Resources Forum for 2024, HVO's latest independently verified data shows that our direct economic contribution in 2023 was almost \$2 billion. This includes wages purchases from 788 local and other suppliers as well as the tax and royalty payments governments use for infrastructure and to pay teachers, nurses and Police.

This social and economic boost is one of the benefits of our Continuation Project while the region and world transitions to a lower carbon future. With HVO North scheduled to close in 2025, that's a huge economic anchor to pull out of the Upper Hunter without alternatives in place.

We're awaiting the NSW Department of Planning's recommendation regarding our proposal. It is assessing our application, including further changes we made in response to submissions made on the Environmental Impact Statement. Changes that mean we'll have virtually no impact on Walkworth Sands Woodland and no impact on Aboriginal scar trees.

The Department's recommendation will be provided to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for its determination of the proposal. We are also seeking Federal Government approval. You can stay up to date by visiting www.hvo.com.au/continuation

Dave Foster, General Manager

Apprentices help complete new Branxton Preschool play space

With help from HVO second year apprentices, children attending Branxton Preschool have a new space in which to play.



Our team spent a day putting finishing touches on the new 300 square metre playground. This included building a garden bed boundary and garden beds, assembling outdoor furniture, laying turf, painting fencing and other odds jobs.

Preschool committee member Jo Woods was very impressed with how the apprentices went about doing so much work in one day and is ecstatic with the outcome.

"We couldn't have finished all that work in time, without the help of HVO's apprentices," Jo said.

"They showed great teamwork and interacted very well with the kids and staff. All the preschool staff commented on how impressive the apprentices were after they left."

HVO apprentice co-ordinator Paul Watters is equally impressed by the performance of the apprentices and qualified tradesman Glenn Hudson from GAMR Services, who provided support, tools and equipment.

"These community days develop apprentices' trades skills as well as skills in teamwork, trying new things, and communication," Paul said.

HVO has taken on 12 new apprentices this year, taking the total number of apprentices to 38. Providing local opportunities for local people to gain skills and qualifications for their future without having to leave the area.

Mine trucks deliver \$32,500 for local charities



Five charities serving Upper Hunter communities have shared in \$32,500 because of the coal hauled by five HVO mining trucks.

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance, Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation, Type 1 Foundation and Singleton Family Support have received the first of their annual donations based on each truck's haulage.

HVO GM Dave Foster said the charity truck program is about building long-term partnerships with the charities and raising community and staff awareness about their services.

"We chose these charities because of the difference they make to our local community," Dave said.

The five trucks each weigh 521 tonne and have a payload capacity of 304 tonne. They are part of a new fleet of mining equipment that is more fuel efficient, has a larger capacity, is quieter and provide better operator amenity.

Singleton Family Support Project Officer Diana Deaves said the partnership with HVO helps to raise awareness of and deliver services to fulfill the needs of local families.

"This funding will help continue our parenting programs and wellbeing programs for local clients," Diana said.

Hunter Prostate Cancer Alliance CEO Alex Sovechles said the partnership is incredibly important in helping to get the message out to men in the Hunter to check in with their GP about early detection of prostate cancer.

"The HVO funding will allow us to continue our free counselling service for men and their families impacted by a prostate cancer diagnosis," Alex said.

Representatives from Business Hunter, Singleton Business Chamber and Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce and Industry joined State Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP and Federal Member for the Hunter Dan Repacholi MP at the funding presentation.

To see more of the presentation
Watch the video here



End of an era for man and machine



Last year, recently retired HVO Dragline Operator, Peter Constable, led other employees in walking a significant piece of mining equipment to its final resting place.

As HVO introduces more efficient and environmentally friendly mining methods, the 25 metre wide, 3,600 tonne, 5,200 horsepower Dragline 104 has come to the end of its operation.

Peter worked at HVO for 53 years. With wife Lavinia by his side, he slid back into the operator's seat where he had spent much of his time.

"I started working on the dragline in 1986, as soon it first went to work." Peter said.

Affectionately known as 'Big Max', the mighty machine was able to shift 12.5 million cubic metres of material per year, boosting production rates.

Dragline 104 will be dismantled over the next year. An end of an era, for both man and machine.

Find out more about Peter
and Big Max
Watch the video here



YOU'RE INVITED - HVO Community Sessions

Drop in for a cuppa and a chat about any aspect of HVO's operations or our proposal to continue mining until 2050.

- **Saturday 13 April,** 8-10 am at 880 Maison Dieu Road, Maison Dieu.
- **Tuesday 23 April,** 6-9 am at Jerrys Plains School of Arts Hall.

Supporting the community

HVO grant sets up Hunter Australian Native Bee group



One of HVO's 2023 community grants helped set up a Hunter branch of the Australian Native Bee Association (ANBA) to support people to value and protect Australian native bees in the Hunter.

Some of the funding went to hosting a community workshop on hive duplication of Australian social stingless native bees, with native bee guru Dr Tim Heard. More than 40 people attended including HVO Electrical Engineer and native beekeeper Greg Lloyd who is an ANBA member.

ANBA Hunter Chairperson, Ben Fitzpatrick, said the group will connect local native beekeepers to share information on the significance, sustainable management, and conservation of Australian native bees as well as to develop native bee products.

He said the Varroa mite emergency response has sparked a growing interest in native bees and how they benefit agriculture, the community and the environment.

"The honey from native bees has been used in Australia for thousands of years and we're learning more about the role of native bees in pollination."

To support or join ANBA's Hunter branch visit www.anba.org.au

ANBA was one of six recipients of Round 2, 2023 grants to improve the community's capacity building, skills, or the environment.

- Carrie's Place - Upgrade of household appliances
- Denman Public School - Colour Run fundraiser
- Whittingham Public Hall - Replace kitchen flooring
- Jerrys Plains School of Arts - Replace stage curtains
- Australian Native Bee Association, Hunter branch - Establishment equipment and event
- Muswellbrook South Public School - Colour Run fundraiser

HVO has provided more than \$400,000 in grants to more than 90 projects since 2018. We award grants twice a year to support smaller scale projects of not-for-profit organisations working in the Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland or Upper Hunter LGAs.

APPLY NOW. Applications for 2024 Round 1 grants close April 30.

Visit hvo.com.au/community



The Muswellbrook South Public School colourful end-of-year event raised funds for local charity Where There's a Will Foundation.



Local people escaping domestic violence rely on Carrie's Place for support and temporary shelter. HVO funding means one Carrie's Place residence now has a new washing machine, refrigerator, microwave and air fryer.

Curtains raised at Jerrys Plains School of the Arts

Jerrys Plains School of Arts will soon have new stage curtains thanks to support from HVO and neighbouring mines United Wambo, Ashton and Mt Thorley Warkworth.

Traffic on Lemington Road - May 25

There will be reduced traffic speeds and some extra traffic on Lemington Road on Saturday May 25 as we are holding a staff and family event. Please take extra care if using the road, particularly around 9am, noon and 3pm.



Local community legend rides for kids' safety



With funding from HVO, well-known Jerrys Plains' resident Brian Atfield (left in picture above) rode 200km on horseback in January to help raise \$500,000 to support kids' safety in Australia.

Brian and 19 others rode for nine days from the Hunter Valley to Tamworth as part of the KIDS Foundation charity's Tour d'Horse fundraising event. Brian also co-ordinated the horses, their feed and property visits.

The funds will support a new See More Kindness early intervention program in Newcastle, the Hunter and the New England early childhood centres, as well as an Empowering Kindness camp for local children recovering from injury later in 2024.

KIDS Foundation CEO Susie O'Neill OAM said the ride is the biggest fundraising event the charity has had.

"We are so grateful that Brian and Hunter Valley Operations joined us on a journey to make a difference. The funding means KIDS Foundation will reach 200,000 Australian children in 2024," Susie said.

Brian and HVO Community and Environment Officer Nic McLaughlin (pictured below) joined the Foundation at Little Kindy Singleton in March to start the process of handing out the health and safety resources to more than 500 preschoolers in the Hunter.



Helping Jerrys Plains kids get ready for school

Access to education is vital for people in every community, no matter how small. That's why HVO has been funding the Jerrys Juniors and Ready4School programs at Jerrys Plains Public School since 2016.

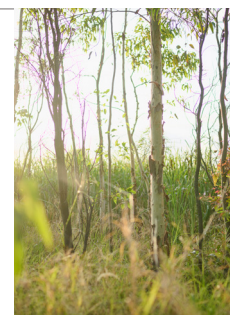
An early childhood practitioner gives kids the social, teaching and learning experiences that prepare them for Kindergarten. The programs helps them get used to the structure and routine of school and to be more confident and self-assured.

Find out about the program
Read more + watch the video here



Rehabilitation works on track

HVO rehabilitates land as soon as it is no longer needed for mining. In 2023 we rehabilitated 58ha and plan to rehabilitate 69ha in 2024.



Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

The HVO CCC met in February. The next meeting is in May. CCC briefings and meeting minutes are at hvo.com.au/community

FREE Neighbour water filter or water tank clean

HVO offers either an under sink water filter kit or water tank cleaning to near neighbours, free of charge. Call **0455 782 292** to register your interest.

Get in touch

1800 888 733 (freecall) 24/7 SMS blast and road closure notifications - text *subscribe* to **0447 448 982**

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