

Denman News



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"Pride of the Hunter"
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We are very excited for Mrs Vanessa Whitten who has accepted a position with the Upper Hunter Shire Council pursuing her interest in Youth Services. Mrs Whitten has been a valuable member of the Denman Public School team for 15 years in her role as a School Learning Support Officer and we would like to acknowledge her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to our school. We know that all members of our school community will miss her smiling face and wish her well with her new career.



Farewell Mrs Whitten

Horse Sports

Well done to our three riders from St. Joseph's Denman who participated in the Blandford School Horse Sports last Friday. Competitors were Addie and Callie Hagan and Sophie Paull.



Malabar makes major progress on Drayton Rehab



Malabar Coal has made major progress on the rehabilitation of the Drayton open-cut mine (now known as Maxwell Infrastructure) with more than 90 hectares of land rehabilitated during 2018.

Malabar Chairman Wayne Seabrook said the rehabilitation is a priority for the local underground mining company and is delighted by the progress made to date. "It's a pleasure to stand on site and watch the transformation take place first hand, from the shaping of landforms to the seeding of pasture and woodland areas for future generations. But the public don't often have the opportunity to get this view. Many of our neighbours have lived in the area for generations and I know they are eager to see the mine rehabilitated to a high standard. That's why we wanted to share this update so the community can really see the progress being made." he said. "Since having access to the mine site in March 2018, we've had around 30 people working on site to rehabilitate the land. While there is still work

ahead of us, we're on track to create a post-mining landscape that is compatible with its surroundings and capable of sustaining productive land use. Most importantly, what we create will be in line with the community's standards so future generations can enjoy the land,"

Mr Seabrook said. Several improvements to the rehabilitation process were undertaken in 2018 including revised seed mixes to suit the soil and landscape, soil enhancement using biosolids' particularly on pasture areas, and designs to create a more natural looking landscape that blends in with the surrounding area. The company is also thinking creatively when it comes to final land use and has commenced technical studies to support a development application for the Maxwell Solar Project – a proposed solar farm on a portion of the rehabilitated site. If approved, the project will have an installed capacity of about 25MW and provide 50 more jobs for the local area during construction. Working at capacity, the solar farm would generate enough energy to power about 10,000 local homes, or all the homes in Muswellbrook and Singleton.

