

# 1 GLENDELL UPDATE

Management is now in place with mining due to commence in early 2008. Ben Clibborn has been appointed Environment and Community Co-ordinator.

# 2 FROM THE COAL FACE



In 2007, the Mt Owen Complex produced approximately 5.04 million tonnes of product coal for the export and domestic markets.

# 3 GLENNIES CREEK REMEDIATION



The Glennies Creek project continues to achieve fantastic results through the combined resources of XMO, HLM staff and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

# 4 COMMUNITY VACANCY

A vacancy exists for a community representative to join the Mt Owen CCC. Interested persons should contact Brian Thomas at Singleton Council on 6578 7357.



# MT OWEN TWO-WAY

The Mt Owen Two-Way Issue No.10 February 2008

## Message from the Operations Manager



Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Mt Owen Complex. I hope everybody enjoyed their break over the Christmas New Year period with family and friends and that 2008 proves to be a prosperous year for all. For the Mt Owen Complex it will be a challenging year with the development of the Glendell Mine that will complete the expansion of the Mt Owen Complex.

The second half of 2007 saw a continued focus on Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) issues by all people on site. Safety awareness and behaviour programmes, risk assessment & job observations, rehabilitation works taking advantage of weather conditions, and conducting an open day showing the Glennies Creek rehabilitation works undertaken by the company are a few examples of the projects undertaken within the HSEC area in the last six months.

Production for the year of 5.04 million product tonnes was below expectations and was affected by a change to the mine design that will provide more efficient haulage profiles in the future, and the effect of wet weather in the second half of the year. With the scheduled production from the Mt Owen and Ravensworth East mines, and the establishment of the Glendell mine, the Complex is on target to produce in excess of 8 million product tonnes in 2008.

Construction work on the expansion of the coal preparation plant has been completed on time and within budget. The works were undertaken without injury to personnel and while the existing plant continued to operate. This outcome was a credit to those working on the project and the production people on site who worked along side the project and lent a hand where they could. A pleasing aspect of the project was people's attitude to all HSEC matters as demonstrated by the way they worked around a local magpie that made a home in the construction area. Both the mother and chick prospered and left once the growing process was complete.

Work on the Glendell Mine project is accelerating with the management team now in place with planning and scheduling



A local magpie family makes its home in the construction area.

works being undertaken to allow for the development of the project during 2008. The people involved in this project are enthusiastic and committed to the responsible and effective development of this mine.

**Trevor Wells**  
Operations Manager, Xstrata Mt Owen

## Glendell Mine Update

Glendell Mine is planned to commence mining in early 2008 following approval of the modification of the existing development consent. Initially, mining operations will commence in the area just south of the Ravensworth East Mine (West Pit) followed by development of the box cut for the main Glendell Mine. During the first half of 2008 the permanent Glendell mine facilities will be constructed including the workshop and administration infrastructure complex. The entrance to these facilities will be off Hebden Road approximately 500m north of the Bowmans Creek bridge on Hebden Road.



The management team for the Glendell Mine is now in place and busily preparing for the start up of the operation. Following commencement of the mine operation with a mining contractor, Glendell Mine will instigate a recruitment process for future employees that will continue throughout 2008.

The objective will be to bring new employees into the operation in a safe manner so that they are capable, well trained individuals who are keen to make a difference at a new mine site. Glendell Mine has recently employed Ben Clibborn as the Environment and Community Co-ordinator. Ben previously worked at Xstrata's Bulga Coal operation south of Singleton. Ben will report to John Watson XMO's HSEC Manager and his role will primarily involve environmental management for the Glendell Mine and liaising with the local community.

## Water Management

The Mt Owen Complex water management system has been undergoing continuous review to ensure that water usage data is captured more accurately, and thus allow the site to identify improvement opportunities for saving water. The Complex system retains the objectives of minimising the consumption of high quality water, diverting all clean catchment water around the operations and avoiding discharges. Recycling of all water on site remains the focus of the water management system and all water collected on site is recycled through the tailings circuit.

In June 2007, staff from XMO and Thiess held a meeting to discuss the next phase in the strategy for overcoming a projected severe lack

of water on site. A mere two days later, the heavens opened, bringing mass flooding to the region and solving Mt Owen's problem of a water shortage! By the end of June 2007 there were approximately 3200 ML in storage across the Complex – the water storage dams and voids had captured over 2,400 ML of water. The June rainfall event was approximately a 1 in 95 year rainfall event for the site.

The Mt Owen Complex continues to operate as a water deficit facility and is reliant on stored and imported water. Only a small component of the Mt Owen water usage (214 ML) was drawn from regulated streams under licence during the last water year and no water is harvested from local clean water catchments.



Mt Owen Complex water management system.

# MT OWEN TWO-WAY



## Community & Educational Support

### Glennies Creek Remediation Project

The Xstrata Mt Owen (XMO) Glennies Creek Rehabilitation project is a three year project designed to rehabilitate a section of Glennies Creek on land owned by XMO. Hunter Land Management (HLM) is managing the project for XMO.

The on ground works are being carried out using both HLM professional rehabilitation staff in combination with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA). This continues to be a great partnership which has achieved fantastic results through using the varying capabilities, enthusiasm and resources of both organisations. In the past six months CVA has contributed six weeks to this project with crews averaging 6-8 members.

Following heavy rain in June, the focus of this years works altered slightly with a greater amount of weed control required.

Weeds targeted included Giant Reed which consumed a fair proportion of CVA and HLM project time, False Acacia, Green Cestrum, Creeping Pear, Wandering Jew, Madeira Vine, African Boxthorn and Fennel. Weed control will continue to be the focus for the first half of 2008 in preparation for future revegetation works.

No new areas of revegetation were established in the past six months. Only minor plantings were done to infill where required and approximately 450 native plants were planted.

In November of 2007, XMO, HLM and CVA hosted an open day of the site. This involved inviting the local community to an informal gathering where they were shown the progress of works on site as well as given the opportunity to discuss project with XMO, HLM and the CVA volunteers.



Above and right: CVA volunteers removing weeds along Glennies Creek.

## Mt Owen Operations Community Consultative Committee

### Update on CCC Meetings

The Mt Owen Complex CCC met three times in 2007. Key activities for the year to date include:

- Review of the implementation of key Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consent conditions.
- Presentation from the DPI-MR on their annual environmental inspection of the Mt Owen Complex.
- Presentations on the progress of the consent assessment modification process undertaken for the Glendell mine.
- Presentation from site personnel on the operational performance of the Mt Owen Complex.
- Presentation and discussion on community projects such as the Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project, the Yorks Creek Landscape Remediation Project and the Biodiversity Offset Strategy.

Remember that minutes of each CCC meeting are available on the Mt Owen website.

### Xstrata Mt Owen Engagement Strategy

In 2008 Xstrata Mt Owen will be implementing a formalised consultation strategy as a result of the Community Survey held previously. The basis of the strategy is to consult with the local community surrounding the operation and to tailor the program to suit the needs of individuals. The process will involve organising meeting with landholders and discussing issues relevant to the Mt Owen Complex and the community. Community members interested in being contacted as part of the program should call John Watson on 6570 0883 or 0428 746 707.

### Community Vacancy on the Mt Owen Complex CCC

We would like to remind you that a vacancy exists for another community representative to join the Mt Owen Complex Community Consultative Committee (CCC). The CCC meets three times per year at Mt Owen Mine, typically on Fridays. Interested persons should contact Brian Thomas at Singleton Council on 6578 7351.

## From the Coal Face

The Mt Owen Complex comprises the adjacent Mt Owen and Ravensworth East open-cut coal mines and the Glendell project area. The Complex is managed by Xstrata Mt Owen (XMO) on behalf of Xstrata Coal. Both Mt Owen and Ravensworth East mines are operated by Thiess Pty Limited. In 2007, the Mt Owen Complex produced approximately 5.04 million tonnes of product coal for the export and domestic markets, with 95% of this coal exported via the port of Newcastle.

### Update on Mt Owen

In 2007 mining at Mt Owen continued in very difficult geological conditions at the interface of Pit B and Pit C. Overburden was hauled and dumped back into mined out areas of Pit B and onto the out of pit West Dump. Rehabilitation efforts have focused on the Main Dump with a substantial proportion of the dump surface now rehabilitated. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance works will continue to ensure the area meets site requirements.

Maintenance of an overburden bund on the West Dump has remained a priority and by working behind the bund during adverse weather conditions we have been able to reduce our impact on the community. The current height of the West Dump is RL190m, which is the maximum approved height. The Eastern Rail Pit will be progressively backfilled and rehabilitated in accordance with the Mining Operations Plan.

Mining over the next 12 months will see operations continue in Pit B and progress further into Pit C. Overburden will continue to be dumped back into mined out areas of Pit B and onto the West Dump.

### Update on Ravensworth East

Mining at Ravensworth East over the previous 12 months has occurred in a southerly direction in mining blocks 8 to 10 targeting the Ravensworth and Bayswater coal seams. Overburden has been used to progressively backfill mined out areas. These areas are being progressively shaped in preparation for future trimming, topsoiling and seeding.

Mining over the next 12 months will continue in a southerly direction, backfilling into the current mining void.

Mining in the Stage 3 and RW pit areas commenced in August 2007 and will continue through to the end of the year. Overburden emplacement has been progressively backfilling the west pit mining area in accordance with MOP approvals.



Mt Owen Complex mining areas.

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1800 730 883

Mt Owen Community Response Line

If you have any inquiries or concerns in relation to the Mt Owen Complex, please contact the Mine on the 24-hour freecall Community Response Line.

1800 248 745

Mt Owen Blasting Information Line

For information on blasting times please contact Mt Owen Complex on the 24-hour freecall number.

0265 700 800

24 Hour Emergency Contact Number

For Emergency Events please contact Mt Owen Complex on the 24-hour number.

[www.mtovencomplex.com.au](http://www.mtovencomplex.com.au)