

TIERI NEWS

SUMMER 2024

Tieri
a top little town

Tieri Town Celebrates Christmas

Expansion of Family
Day Care Model

Join Tieri's New Social Netball Group

End of an Era for OCC's Draglines

tieri.com.au



CONTENTS

Message from the Editor	3
Message from Damien Wynn	3
Fundraiser BBQs at Oak Creek North	4
Breast Cancer Awareness Information Session at OCC	4



CTM LINKS 7th Annual Halloween Event	5
International Men's Day	6
Local Ambulance Committee Family Fun Day	6
Tieri Town Christmas Party	7
Spotlight On... Tieri Physiotherapy	9
Meet the Locals... Kelly McGrath	10
Investing in Our Community	13
Old Inspector's Hut Donated to Capella Pioneer Village	14
Tieri, Your Voice Matters	15

Tackling the Childcare Challenge: Expansion of Family Day Care	16
---	----



CTM Links Launches Ladies Social Hub	17
Community Christmas Appeal	18
Community Pantry	18
Calling for Volunteers	18
New Principal at Tieri State School - Susan Spackman	19
Glencore Awards University Scholarships to Capella High Students	20
Heart of Australia Health Services	21
Message from Nurse Sue	22
Employee Assistance Program ...	23
Protect Your Pets This Snake Season	24
Ensuring the Safe Relocation of Snakes	26
New Sports Group - Social Netball	27



FROM
EVERYONE AT
OAKY CREEK
COAL

GLENCORE

Nominate Your Local Sporting Hero for the CHRC 2025 Sport & Active Recreation Awards	29
Multipurpose courts update	30
End of an Era - OCC Dragline Decommissioning Project	31
Inside Out with... Katie Duncan...	33
Rehabilitation of OCC's Aquila Open Cut Pit	34
Annual OCC Neighbouring Landholders Meeting	35
Glencore Joint Venture (JV) Partner, Sumitomo, visits OCC...	36

Proudly
produced by:

OAKY CREEK
COAL

GLENCORE





FROM THE Acting Editor

It's hard to believe that another year has almost passed. 2024 has certainly had plenty of highs - our ever-growing calendar of community events ([page 4](#)); kick-starting the expansion of the Family Day Care model with a view to increasing childcare options ([page 16](#)); the thriving sports clubs and activities, including the junior and senior Pirates, Tieri Sharks, the new multipurpose courts, and the new social netball group ([page 27](#)); the availability of health services in town ([page 21](#)); progressing with our ambitious rehabilitation plans ([page 35](#)); submission of Oaky Creek Coal's Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan; the success of OCC's Mines Rescue Teams; and much, much more. 2024 also marked the end of an era, with the decommissioning of the iconic OCC Draglines ([page 31](#)) that have been part of our story for over four decades.

We've also shared some lows over the last 12 months, including the passing of our teammates. My thoughts are with the families of those who lost loved ones. Their memories will continue to shine bright at Oaky Creek Coal, and provide further energy for us to create an even greater tomorrow.

It's during times of loss or hardship that the tight-knit community of Tieri feels so comforting. You - the people of this town - are full of compassion for one another, it's a privilege to be part of this community.

As the holiday season approaches, I encourage you to embrace that compassion and reach out to those who might be in need of a mate. Perhaps they haven't been themselves lately, or perhaps they are away from their family for Christmas. Perhaps they just need a break after a big year. Whatever it might be, the friendship of neighbours or workmates can make all the difference, so let's continue to be there for one another over the holidays and throughout 2025.

Stay safe, have an enjoyable, responsible festive season, and I look forward to seeing you in the new year, taking all our passions, experiences, and learnings to continually progress the way we do things.

Joel

Joel May, Environment & Community Manager, Oaky Creek Coal



MESSAGE FROM Damien Wynn General Manager at Oaky Creek Coal

We are absolutely devastated by the tragic incident that occurred here at Oaky Creek Coal on 2nd October, resulting in the death of one of our teammates, Frank Thomas, and the serious injury of another.

It has affected us all deeply and, as we each process our grief in our individual ways, I know that our collective thoughts are with both workers' families and loved ones.

At the beginning of November, our injured teammate took another welcomed step in his recovery, when he was medevacked to a hospital closer to his home and family. We're all rooting for him, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

On Saturday, 23rd November, a celebration of Frank's life was held in Yeppoon. Family, friends and teammates came together for 'one last fish on the beach for Frank', then headed to The Paddock where stories and memories of Frank were shared amongst friends, old and new.

Mining is an industry like no other. It's incredibly close-knit and the people we work with become a huge part of our lives. They're not just colleagues; they're mates. As we navigate this difficult time together, we continue to lean on each other for support and Glencore has made counselling and support services available to all employees and contractors. At times like this, it's more important than ever to look out for one another. So please check in with your family members and friends often to make sure they are OK.

Safety has always been, and will always be the top priority for us at Oaky Creek Coal and we are working closely with Resources Safety & Health Queensland as it investigates the incident.

As the end of the year approaches and the holiday season begins, whether you're at work, travelling, or at home, I urge everyone to be vigilant about your safety and that of your teammates, family and friends. Thank you for all that you contribute to OCC and to the community of Tieri. I hope you get to enjoy some downtime doing the things you love with the people you love.

RIP Frank,

Damien



COMMUNITY EVENTS

24TH & 26TH SEPTEMBER

Fundraiser BBQs at Oaky Creek North

In memory of OCC employee, Jason Nicholls, who lost his battle with cancer earlier this year, fundraising BBQs were held at Oaky North to raise much needed funds for the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

Throughout Jason's fight against bladder cancer, the Royal Flying Doctors Service transported Jason from his home to Brisbane for treatment. With Jason's passing, his family requested that any donations go towards this incredible, much-needed service that is provided at such a difficult and emotional time in people's lives.

The two BBQs were organised by Katie Duncan as a way to check in with each other, whilst raising money for the Flying Doctors. All the 6am, 12pm, 6pm and 8pm OCC crews attended, and Glencore provided the catering.

Despite the circumstances, spirits were lifted as teammates recalled stories of Jason and Joshua Abell, a Manuplex employee and OCC contractor, who sadly passed away in September.

Collectively, the BBQs raised \$2,161 for the Royal Flying Doctors Service. A big thank you to all the employees that helped cook the BBQ, to those who donated, and to the Nicholls family for their open communication with the OCC workforce. Our thoughts are with them and the Abell family at this time.

If you would like to donate to the Royal Flying Doctors, please click below.

CLICK
HERE TO
DONATE

22ND & 23RD OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness Information Session at OCC

As part of Oaky Creek Coal's 'Your Health is Your Wealth' program, information sessions were held across the mine site to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Employees were reminded that breast cancer affects both men and women, how early detection gives the best chance of survival, and what symptoms to be aware of, including:

- A lump of thickening in the breast, especially if it is only one breast
- Change in size and shape of the breast
- Changes to the shape and feel of the nipple
- Changes to the skin of the breast
- Persistent pain that doesn't go away
- Swollen lymph nodes under the arm.

For more information about breast cancer visit the Cancer Council (cancer.org.au) or National Breast Cancer Foundation (nbcf.org.au).



In memory of Jason Nicholls
By Oaky Creek

Share my page

[f](#) [x](#) [e](#) [in](#)

OAKY CREEK COAL
GLENCORE

OAKY CREEK COAL
GLENCORE

In memory of Jason Nicholls

With Jason's passing, his family have requested that donations go to the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Throughout Jason's fight against Bladder Cancer, the Royal Flying Doctors Service transported him from his home to Brisbane for treatment. Please donate now and honour our fallen Coal Mine Worker.



31ST OCTOBER

CTM LINKS 7th Annual Halloween Event

For the seventh year in a row, CTM LINKS held their ever-popular Halloween Community Event, with the support of 22 participating houses.

“Each year we have wonderful engagement from our community, and the overall feedback is that people get involved because it’s fun! It’s an event that brings out people’s playfulness. It’s a great family event and it builds fantastic memories for the kids growing up in Tieri,” says Kath Hema, from CTM LINKS.

This year, Kath and her team did things a little differently. In addition to the usual Spooky Photo Booth at CTM LINKS HQ, they also trialled a roving ‘Spooky Bus’ initiative that proved to be very well received.

“Given Halloween falls in Summer, in the past we found that it is just too hot for Trick-or-Treaters to walk the whole town; and some haunted houses - with very eager hosts - were disappointed they weren’t getting too many visitors, so we came up with the idea of a roving Spooky Bus!” explains Kath.

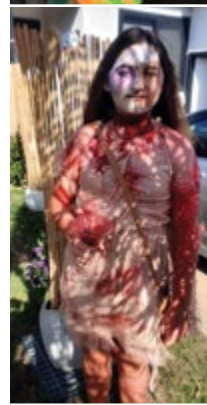
The roving Spooky Bus was a jump-on, jump-off bus that drove through the streets of participating haunted houses. ‘Haunted houses’ displayed a balloon on their mailbox to indicate their involvement in the event. ‘Halloweener’s’ flagged the bus down and took a spooky, airconditioned ride offering cool refreshments to the next section of town for some more trick or treating.

Also new to the event this year, CTM LINKS asked people to post their favourite Halloween photos to the Tieri Noticeboard Facebook page.

“Some fantastic photos were posted, and we thank and congratulate everyone for their participation. As an extra bonus to the occasion Niffy U Creations held a Best Dressed Competition. Thanks to Tabitha and Neville for their community spirit providing this great addition to the event,” says Kath.

“A special thank you goes to DBS for the use of their bus; Ron McGowan for driving the Spooky Bus and for taking care of our Trick-or-Treaters; Foodworks for their ongoing support and engagement; and to Glencore Oaky Creek Coal’s Smarty Grants program, through which we were able to purchase of two Yeti drink dispensers, outdoor event equipment, and an advertising banner for upcoming community events.”

As Relationships Australia says: ‘the community you want starts at your front door’ so a heartfelt thank you to the Tieri community for your participation - it is you that makes this such a great town.





19TH NOVEMBER

International Men's Day

For International Men's Day, Oaky Creek Coal celebrated the positive value OCC men bring to the world, the company, their families and mates, and our community overall. They were toasted with a locally crafted cookie and freshly made coffee to say thank you for their hard work at Oaky Creek and beyond.



30TH NOVEMBER

Local Ambulance Committee Family Fun Day

It was fun for everyone at Tieri Golf Club as the Local Ambulance Committee (LAC) hosted their Family Fun Day.

And fun it was! There were market stalls, a treasure hunt, face painting, ham wheels, carols by candlelight, food and drink, and live music courtesy of Just Jen.

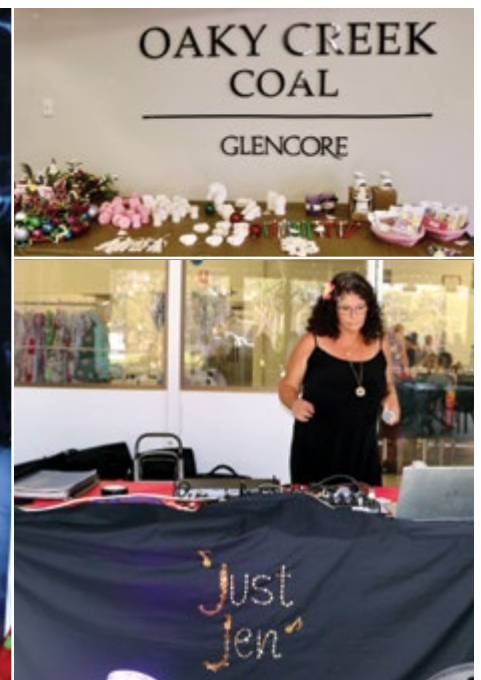
Andrea Ryan Photography was there to capture the Christmas spirit for families and even Santa made a guest appearance!

The event raised \$2650 throughout the day, which will be used by the LAC to purchase important equipment, including a De-Fib that will be easily accessible outside of the Ambulance Station and available for the public to use if needed.

The Ambulance Committee also used the event to recruit Volunteer Ambulance Drivers who play an important role in the community if the Ambulance Officer requires support whilst transporting patients. If you would like to become a Volunteer Ambulance Driver, please contact the LAC President, Anthony Hurst for further information, either directly or via the [LAC Facebook page](#). All expenses incurred for this role are reimbursed from QAS.

Thanks to the following for their support:

- Glencore: Smarty Grant
- Foodworks Tieri: donation of the hams for the Ham Wheels
- Sid and Jen Hurst: donation of multiple plants to sell on the day
- Creative Custom Knives: donation of a raffle prize, with all money raised going to the Local Ambulance Committee
- Krissy Watson: donation of face painting skills
- Tieri Golf Club: for the venue hire
- Made by Mumz: for the cash donation.



7TH DECEMBER

Tieri Town Christmas Party

It was an evening full of festive cheer at the annual Tieri Town Christmas party held in the Town Centre.

Santa came early, much to the delight of our local children who tore open the wrapping on their presents quicker than you can say "ho-ho-ho!"

There were rides to enjoy; food and drink provided by Whisper Restaurant and Gin Bar; and the perfect soundtrack to the evening thanks to Radio Club Band.

As always, the firework display brought gasps of "ooo" and "ahhh" before everyone headed back to the dance floor.

Thanks to Ashley Edler, CHMS, Emma Rach, Kelly Keleher and Linzi Gennings for organising and supporting this much-loved fixture on Tieri's calendar.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

1st February, 2025: Tropical Race Day at Emerald Race Course

2nd March, 2025: Clean Up Australia Day

8th March, 2025: International Women's Day

21st March, 2025: Harmony Day BBQ at Tieri Pool

28 June, 2025
Oak Creek Coal Family Day



To see the full calendar of events for Tieri, Capella and the surrounding areas, visit tieri.com.au/events-calendar/.

If you have an idea for an event, would like to be on the Organising Committee, or would like to volunteer to help out at any of the upcoming events, please reach out to Katie Duncan on 07 4984 7100 or Katie.Duncan@glencore.com.au. ●





Tieri Physiotherapy

Your name: Alex Jaquet

Locations serviced: Tieri and the surrounding areas

Tell us about yourself and how you came to be Lead Physiotherapist and Rehab Consultant at Tieri Medical Practice and Physiotherapy?

I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do out of school. My Mum was a nurse, and I had a passion for sport so, after some brainstorming, she set me up doing work experience with a few of her physiotherapy contacts in Rockhampton.

I got a taste for it and, despite not being a high-achiever in school, I got into Central Queensland University to study for a Bachelor Degree in Physiotherapy (Honours), and I really enjoyed it. I graduated at the end of 2019, but Covid hit and no-one was hiring. Eventually I got a call from a guy that had been a year ahead of me at Uni. The practice he worked at in Yeppoon was looking for someone to fill in, so that's what I did. Filling in turned into a permanent role and I was there for one year.

My Mum found out that the previous Physiotherapist here in Tieri (Kristi) was looking for someone to locum (stand in) for her. I came up to locum for a few weeks and really enjoyed the town and tight-knit team. When Kristi left the practice at the end of 2021, I was offered the job.

My career has followed a very opportunistic pathway, where I have fortuitously been in the right place at the right time.

What exactly is physiotherapy and why might people need it?

Essentially, we're movement and pain specialists. People come in with pain and/or limited movement and I work with them to get back to full function and without pain. We work a lot on goal setting with the patients in hopes to build good, lifetime habits that help sustain their rehab journey.

What services do you offer?

- Treatment for musculoskeletal injuries
- Treatment for sports injuries
- Work cover / occupational health
- Post-surgical rehabilitation
- Treatment for paediatric injuries, especially from playing sports - I see a lot of ankle injuries!
- Cardiorespiratory treatment for patients who need help getting stuff off their lungs
- Support for neurological patients such as those who have had a stroke (although the clinic is the most equipped for these type of patients)
- Spirometry: testing the lung functions of mine functions to ensure not going backwards.

Take us through a typical day...

My workday is usually 8:30am to 5pm, though I'm up and about well before that. I tend to see most of my patients either in the morning, or at the end of the day. It can range from four to 14 in one day.

On Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 - 4:30pm, and Thursdays 10:30am - 12pm, I go on site to see workers at Oaky Creek North.

In between my patients, I catch up on the admin side of things and focus on my study and assignments. I'm currently doing a Masters of Ergonomics, Safety and Health to broaden my understanding within the Occupational Health & Safety field and work towards becoming an APA titled Occupational Health Physiotherapist.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety. I get to see a broad range of circumstances, so it's always something different.

You mentioned the benefits of building good habits. What are some habits that you encourage people to form?

Consistency is the main thing. We all have lots of things that pop up in life, but if we can be consistent with our exercise, our healthy eating, our performance, and our mindset, we build a foundation that carries us through challenges. Small, steady efforts lead to long-term growth and resilience. Over time, those consistent actions become habits that support our well-being, even when life gets tough.

What do you love about living and working in Tieri?

I've always liked living in a small, tight-knit community. I've built up good relationships so it's great bumping into people at the shop, in the pub or on the street and having a chat.

It's a really sociable town and the sport is good, too. I've been involved with the Pirates for the last two years, either playing for them, or helping with training and strapping or running water when I'm injured. Natalie Martell (a town local) has recently started up a mixed netball group ([page 27](#)) at the multipurpose courts here in Tieri. Anyone can get involved, just reach out to myself or Nat on Facebook either directly or through the Tieri Noticeboard page.

You recently became a Dad - congratulations! What have you learned about yourself since your son was born in June?

That I need more sleep, haha! More seriously, I have learnt the need to be adaptable. Before he came along, I was very driven by routine, a creature of habit. But you definitely need to be more flexible with a 4-month old.

How do you balance work and parenthood and study with staying fit and healthy?

It's definitely difficult, but you just have to make it work. I try to cut out or minimise the non-essentials like 'doom scrolling' on my phone, a 'few-too-many' beers with the boys, and my weekly golf day. It also helps to mix things up and combine them, like spending family time taking a walk. Maybe one day my son will be able to join me on the golf course!

How can people book an appointment with you?

The best way to book is by calling the front desk at Tieri Medical Practice & Physiotherapy on 07 4984 8386, or online via HotDoc. ●



MEET THE LOCALS

KELLY MCGRATH

Our top little town is full of interesting people from varied backgrounds. Each edition, we chat to different members of the community to get their story and share it with you so you get to “Meet the Locals”.

This edition, we meet Mental Health Care Navigator, Medical Researcher, Educator, Nutritionist, continual learner, dogged problem solver, wife and mum, Kelly McGrath...



Kelly, how long have you lived in Tieri and where was home before that?

I've lived in Tieri for nearly three years. Before that, I lived in Mackay. My husband, Michael, had been doing Drive In Drive Out from Oaky Creek North for years and we decided it was time for the family to relocate. So, my daughters and I moved out here.

I've also lived in Brisbane and spent six years living in San Francisco - a very different experience to Tieri!

How would you describe Tieri to people who might be considering moving here?

It's very quiet and relaxed. Everyone knows each other and is very friendly, and there's no obligation to be anywhere or do anything. After living in fast-paced city environments, I was worried how I'd respond to the change, but the whole family has really embraced it. Our girls, aged nine and 14, love the freedom they get here because it's so safe and everyone looks out for each other.

You currently work at Navicare - tell us about the organisation and your role there.

I'm the Service Manager and Mental Health Care Navigator for [Navicare](#). It's a not-for-profit that provides a free service connecting people with mental health support across the Isaac region.

Navicare was developed as part of a research project between Wesley Research Institute and Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation.

In 2020, Wesley Research Institute conducted a study across the Bowen Basin to understand the challenges the community faced when seeking support for mental health. The study revealed that many mental health services are not available locally, are not the right fit, and/or have long waiting times before they can be accessed. Additionally, many people felt embarrassed about the need to seek help.

So, Wesley Research Institute consulted with local mental health service providers, Isaac Regional Council representatives and other community representatives to co-design a new model of care that enables people from regional, rural, and remote communities to seek much-needed support that is timely, appropriate and removes many of the barriers associated with accessing specialist health care in the region.

The Navicare model was developed with, and approved by, the community and I was brought in to implement it. We've been up and running for three years now. The first year was essentially a pilot that we used to test and research the efficacy of the model. My colleagues and I published the findings in a [peer-reviewed journal](#).

Based on the findings and the success of Navicare, we were recently awarded a grant to expand the service into three other areas, one of which has already opened in Clermont. In the process of opening the new sites, we'll be conducting long-term analysis of the economic impact the early intervention Navicare provides is having on the health system as a whole.

The role of a Mental Health Care Navigator is to connect people with the most appropriate mental health support. I often say we're a bit like Tinder but for people seeking mental health professionals. We work with each individual to match relevant services to their individual needs. Mental health issues can stem from organic disease or biological conditions, or from things that are happening in our lives that cause us stress. For example, the loss of someone, financial pressures, eating disorders, learning difficulties, and so on. At Navicare, we aim to connect people with professionals and services that can help them address the root cause. We want to make sure the services they access are the best possible fit as that's more likely to provide lasting results.

On a daily basis we're exposed to some distressing situations, but it can be incredibly rewarding knowing that we've made a difference to someone's life and even saved lives.



You've got three tertiary qualifications in science and health, plus a Cert III and three Cert IV's; you're about to finish another degree - Graduate Certificate in Mental Health - and, in the new year, you'll be commencing a PhD in Chronic Wounds! What do you enjoy about the learning process?

I love acquiring new knowledge. I'm an inherent problem solver and have been since I was a kid when I was always into puzzles. One way or another, my career has always been about solving health problems, either at the individual or societal level. To solve those problems, you first have to acquire the knowledge.

That thirst for knowledge led you down the path of a Medical Researcher and you have successfully published research on a variety of diseases, and health services and implementation science research. How is the subject/topic of your research decided upon?

The PhD project I'm about to embark on combines biomedical research aspects along with elements around understanding health service protocols and implementation science. I have experience across all three areas, and was approached by Wesley Research Institute to consider the opportunity as they felt I'd be a good fit given my background and experience. I'm really excited to be getting back to research, especially the biomedical component (I'm such a nerd!). I'll still be running the Navicare service while I'm studying though.

You also spent 11 years teaching at Central Queensland University. What does it take to be a successful educator?

There are LOTS of really smart people in the world, with the ability to acquire, retain and recall an incredible amount of knowledge. Being able to effectively impart that knowledge and educate others however, requires an entirely different skill set. You not only need the content knowledge in the first place, you need to be able to break it down and explain it to multiple different people, who are



all at multiple different levels of understanding, and who learn in multiple different ways.

I really enjoyed the process of explaining complex information in a simple, accessible way to help inform the next generation of nurses, clinicians, paramedics, and allied health professionals.

And if that wasn't enough, you're a nutritionist and personal trainer! Tell us about that side of your life.

Well, I don't have much time for that these days, so there's not much to tell. Before I moved to Tieri most of my work was in the disability sector, working with patients and clients to help them improve their physical strength. Nutrition is the natural complement to that. It was a real buzz seeing a child struggling with their core strength learn how to hold themselves high and ride the zip wire/flying fox for the first time!

What have all these experiences taught you about yourself?

I'm a lot more adaptable than I thought I was. I've had to make a lot of pivots in my life. For example, when I moved back to Australia from San Francisco in 2008 and there weren't any opportunities for a Medical Researcher in Mackay. I wondered what on earth I was going to do. I had all this knowledge and experience and no outlet for it. And that's when I got into education.

I really don't like change (as my husband will tell you!) but after so much practice, I'm definitely getting better at the pivots and am ready to embrace the next one, if/when it is required.

You're clearly a very driven individual; what motivates you?

Helping people. I want to make a difference in people's lives, whether that's helping an individual improve their health or come back from the edge of suicide, or helping thousands of people through my research. I simply want to improve people's lives and wellbeing.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I always wanted to be a journalist and I do some creative writing on the side. I've written a few kids' manuscripts and a complete adult novel, and I have another three adult fiction books in various stages of completion. I've not had much chance to pursue my writing since starting my Graduate Certificate, so I'm hoping to pick it up again in the new year.

How do you manage your time?

I don't! At least, I don't do it as well as I would like. I can either be very focused on something, or a giant procrastinator when it comes to things I don't particularly want to do.

Where's your 'happy place'?

Hanging out with the hubby and the kids, or going for a run (so long as the magpies aren't swooping!).

If you could live in any era, when would that be and why?

The 1980s or 90s, before social media and handheld devices took over our lives. Technology plays a key role in keeping us connected, but sometimes we're a bit too plugged in. It would be fun to go back to the 80s for our girls to see how Mum and Dad grew up..... perhaps without the terrible hairstyles though!



MEET THE LOCALS

KELLY MCGRATH



Quick-Fire Round...

How do you describe yourself?

Quirky, scattered at times, and determined.

How would your mates describe you?

A problem solver who works hard, but plays hard too.

How do you spend your spare time... and with whom?

My husband and girls and our great friends from Tieri, Mackay or further afield. We love hanging out, listening to music. My husband is a DJ and has all the gear set up in our downstairs area so we'll often have 'At Home' discos.

5 things you can't live without?

1. Family
2. Tea
3. Running
4. Music
5. Wine

Dead or alive, who would be your ideal dinner guests?

Sarah J Mass (fantasy author). I'd love to have dinner with my Grandad again. And all my family and friends, in the same place.

If you could have anyone else's job, whose would it be and why?

Whilst I don't have any political aspirations, I am a dogged problem solver and I believe I could fix a lot of problems if I was in power. ●

Mental Health Support Information

If you are seeking support for your mental health, there are a number of options available.

Oaky Creek Coal partners with Converge International to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that gives employees, their partners and their children access to free counselling services ([see page 23](#)).

If the EAP service is unavailable or if you choose not to use it, for instance, if you need help with something quite specialised such as counselling for Autism Spectrum Disorder or schizophrenia, then Isaac Navicare can assist you in finding a suitable clinician.

For example, Navicare can assist with referrals for:

- Free, short-term phone counselling (usually 4-6 sessions)
- Referral to a psychologist with a Mental Health Treatment Plan from your GP
- Referral for Telehealth psychiatry with the appropriate referral from your GP
- Referral for wrap-around supports such as drug or alcohol counselling, relationship counselling, financial counselling, etc.

If you are struggling and need to talk or text with a counsellor, here are some helpful resources:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14 (0477 13 11 14 for Text Service)
- Kid's Helpline – 1800 55 1800
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636
- Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467

If you are in crisis, when you call the following number, you will be connected to the nearest Mental Health Acute Care Team. They will assess you and give you advice on whether you need to go to hospital or call an ambulance.

- 1300 MH CALL - Mental health access line – 1300 64 22 55

[See page 23 for details.](#)

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, please call 000 immediately.





INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Investing in Our Community



From buying new resources or equipment, to events for the whole community to enjoy, every year, Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) invests thousands of dollars into helping community-focused groups get their ideas off the ground.

This investment comes in many forms, from SmartyGrants, to identified community improvement projects, to in-kind donations, including the use of facilities and the provision of goods, services, and labour.

Throughout 2024 to date, OCC has awarded over \$97,000 (and counting) in community grants via its SmartyGrants program. This funding has been provided to community organisations, social groups and sporting clubs including:

- Tieri Possums Playgroup
- Tieri Family Unit & Child Health Centre
- Capella & District Show Society
- Capella Rodeo Association
- Tieri Local Ambulance Committee (LAC)
- Tieri CTM Links
- Peak Downs Pony Club
- Tieri Country Club
- Friends of the Capella Cultural Centre
- Capella Pioneer Village
- Tieri State School

SmartyGrants rounds are about to close for 2024, but the following will be available again throughout 2025. All applications, along with guidelines and information for completion, can be found on the [Glencore SmartyGrants website](#):

- Oaky Creek Coal Community Investment Grants (three rounds)
- Oaky Creek Coal Local Community & Family Events Grants (available year round)
- Glencore QLD Junior Sport Development Program (two rounds)
- Glencore General Grants (two rounds)
- Glencore University and School Scholarships (one round) - [see page 20](#)
- Glencore Schools P&C Grant (one round)

CLICK
HERE FOR
MORE INFO

Applying for funding

Kate French, Senior Environment & Community Advisor at OCC, says Glencore encourages groups to consider applying for grants that will help with the capacity-building and sustainability of the club, its volunteers and members in the long run. She also stresses that the grants are not just available to groups in Tieri - those in the surrounding areas of Capella, Middlemount or Emerald can also apply.

"The primary focus of the investment program is to support the communities in which we operate. We understand we don't have access to everything in Tieri, so, if you regularly travel to participate in community events or groups in nearby locations such as Emerald, then we encourage you (or the group) to apply for a SmartyGrant and include this information in your application."

In-Kind Support

Investment in our community doesn't just come in the form of grants. Oaky Creek Coal also provides in-kind support by way of donations, such as items from the mine to the Capella Pioneer Village for their collection ([see page 14](#)) or OCC merchandise to community groups; free accommodation and meals for visiting health services, such as BreastScreen Queensland and the Women's Health Nurse; and waiving the venue hire fee for Tieri State School.

If you have any questions about the SmartyGrant program or in-kind support, Kate and the E&C team are here to help, so give them a call on (07) 4984 7100 or email OCCEnvironment@glencore.com.au.

Stay tuned to tieri.com.au/category/tieri-news for details of when the first SmartyGrant rounds open in 2025. ●



OCC E&C Team visits Capella Pioneer Village Heritage Museum

On Monday 18th November, the OCC Environment & Community (E&C) team visited the Capella Pioneer Village Heritage Museum for an informative tour, to check out the incredible displays depicting our local history, and meet the dedicated volunteers.

They also took the time to visit some of the Community Investment projects that have been provided by OCC over the years, including the recently moved Inspector's Hut ([see page 14](#)) and a newly constructed pad - funded by a 2024 OCC Community Investment Grant - which will be used as a base to house some very large and heavy pieces of longwall mining equipment.

"The Pioneer Village is a great spot to take family and visitors. They have a huge collection (over 6,500!) of fascinating items from our local history, including the region's mining history with some OCC memorabilia," says Kate French, Senior E&C Advisor.



It was cool to see items from the mine restored and preserved. It's like a trip down memory lane and amazing to see how far things have come over the decades.

Kate French

Three Local Groups Receive a Glencore Junior Sports Development Grant

Twice a year, in March and August, Glencore runs its Junior Sports Development Program offering grants of up to \$7,500 per round.

The aim of the program is to assist clubs in building their capacity to cater for junior participation.

In the August 2024 round, three local groups were awarded funded:

- **Peak Downs Junior Pirates received \$7,500 for the 2025 season equipment**
- **Tieri State School received \$7,338 for additions to their Junior playground**
- **Capella Cattedogs Rugby Union received \$7,500 towards their 2025 Junior Rugby Union season equipment.**

Since its inception in 2012, Glencore's Junior Sports Development Program has delivered more than \$2 million in funding to New South Wales and Queensland based clubs.

The next round of the Junior Sports Development Program will be held in March 2025. ●



Old Inspector's Hut Donated to Capella Pioneer Village

Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) has proudly donated the ~140-year-old inspector's hut from Capella Railway Station to Capella Pioneer Village.

According to Terry Carroll, President of Capella Pioneer Village and Maintenance Planner at Oaky Creek Surface, the hut was likely built in the early 1880s when the Capella railway station was constructed. It housed the inspector who regularly went out to check the railway line. The little hut was originally located just south of the Railway Station, near to the public toilet block in Capella, across the road from the newsagent.

When the railway was downsized back in the 1980s, the hut was moved 74kms east, along with the goods shed, to the Oak Park property that neighbours OCC mine. At the time, Oak Park was owned by the Prince family; today it is owned by Colinta Holdings (Glencore). Here, the little hardwood hut sat on stumps overlooking the cattleyards where it was used to store cattle property tools and equipment.

And there it stayed until, earlier this year, as part of its community investment program, OCC donated the hut to the Capella Pioneer Village and will form part of their local history and railway heritage collection.

Relocation, relocation, relocation

On October 12th, the hut was safely moved off Oak Park with the help of a low loader and driver generously donated by AE Group, an earthmoving contractor at OCC who is currently undertaking rehab earthworks at Aquila Pit. This was arranged by Darren Ingram and Mike Daly.

On the day, AE Group transported the Eimco EJC130 LHD (owned by the Pioneer Village) out to Oak Park, where it was used to pick up the two-tonne hut on its forks with slippers. The Eimco then carried the building down the road, through a narrow gate and drove up onto the low loader complete with the hut on its forks.

Given the size of the hut, they were ably supported by Capella Pioneer Village volunteers, Frank Conway and Darryl Gordon, as well as Lyndsay Hutchen and Gerard Pedlar from Capella, who kindly donated their services and expertise to provide a wide-load escort.

In addition to the hut itself, OCC has also provided the Capella Pioneer Village with a community investment donation to assist them in securing the hut, a walk path, and make-safe structural repairs.

"Darryl Gordon has been doing some phenomenal repair work to the timber in the lower structural part of the hut before it is moved onto site. We're also in the process of getting quotes for some more carpentry work with a view to hopefully having the hut fully restored and securely fitted in its new home soon," says Terry.

Capella Pioneer Village is located at 1 Pioneer Street, Capella. It's one of the biggest volunteer-run museums in Queensland, with 90 members and over 6,500 exhibits, including a fleet of tractors, the original Peak Downs homestead (the biggest restored slipslab building in Australia), a Blacksmith shop, a full working cinema, a sheep-shearing shed, memorabilia from the Australian Light Horse, and much, much more.

Capella Pioneer Village is now closed for the wet season. It will open again after Anzac Day 2025, at which point, along with the inspector's hut, they hope to have the old Oaky North mines rescue hut in use as a dedicated mining exhibit as well - another donation from OCC that the team is busy restoring.

With so much to see and do, the Pioneer Village is always looking for more volunteers and tour guides. If you're interested in local history and would be keen to help out, please contact Terry via the Capella Pioneer Village Museum Facebook page. ●

“
We're very grateful to Glencore and Oaky Creek Coal for helping us save this important piece of history.
said Terry.





TIERI, YOUR VOICE MATTERS

LOCAL VOICES: Tieri, Your Voice Matters

From 25th July to 2nd September, 2024, Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) engaged research company, Voconiq, to run a second Anchor Survey - a comprehensive questionnaire amongst the people of Tieri to establish a baseline understanding of community attitudes and views. This was the seventh in a series of 'Local Voices' community perception surveys since the program began back in Dec 2020 with the initial Anchor Survey.

Confidentiality is key

The 2024 Anchor Survey was open to anyone over the age of 18 living and/or working in Tieri. OCC engages Voconiq to conduct its community surveys because Voconiq has a strict ethics framework that protects the rights of research participants. All data is maintained securely, and no personal information, or information that would enable identification of individuals, is made available to OCC, Glencore or any other party. Participant confidentiality and anonymity are assured. All Voconiq's processes comply with or exceed the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988.

Within Voconiq, participant personal information and survey response data are kept physically separate and only accessible by a small number of senior project members. All other parties, including OCC, receive an aggregated summary of community responses, not the raw data.

From the aggregate data of this latest Anchor Survey, it is known that 166 people completed the survey, of which 55 per cent were male and 45 per cent female; 48 per cent work for OCC, and 6 per cent identified themselves as First Nations. This reflects approximately 10% of our community, giving OCC a statistically significant representation of how you, as a community, feel about the mine, its operations, and how it engages with the community, as well as the town and its services and amenities.

Collective community perception? High trust, high acceptance

As a community, you gave Oaky Creek Coal an average rating of 3.5 out of 5 regarding trust in the company to act responsibly. This was

the same as the initial Anchor Survey in 2020, although a slight drop on the last Pulse Survey in Mar/Apr 2024 (3.8).

You also gave a high average rating of 3.9 out of 5 for acceptance, compared to 4.1 in 2020 and 4.3 in the last Pulse Survey.

Despite the dip since the Mar/Apr Pulse Survey, both your level of trust and acceptance in OCC remain strong and positive, and are above average compared to other Australian-based Voconiq customers, indicating a good relationship between Oaky Creek Coal and the Tieri community. In fact, 38% said their feelings towards OCC had become more positive in the last year.

Key influencers and insights

Your levels of trust in, and acceptance of, OCC are strongly influenced by a number of factors, the strongest of which are listed below, along with some key insights from the Anchor Survey.

Trust in Oaky Creek is heavily influenced by its:

- **Management of environmental impacts:** Around two-thirds of the community believe that OCC manages their impact on the environment effectively (64%), is positively contributing to protecting the local environment (64%), and does a good job rehabilitating previously mined land (69%).
- **Economic impact on the region and its future prosperity:** The perception of social investment in the community is strong, with 64% agreeing that OCC's investment activities have had a positive impact. Three quarters (75%) agree the community has benefited financially from the activities of OCC. And half agree that the company's activities facilitate increased investment in local infrastructure such as upgraded roads.
- **Procedural fairness:** Around half agree that OCC listens to and respects their opinions regarding community issues (50%); that they are able to participate in decisions made by OCC about such issues (51%); and that OCC is prepared to change its practices in response to community concerns (48%). Encouragingly, 59% agreed that OCC always tries to address concerns raised by the community and follows through on its commitments.
- **Internal and external regulations that are in place to ensure the company acts responsibly:** Over two-thirds (68%) agree that both internal policies and guidelines, and external regulations ensure OCC does the right thing, and 71% agree there are checks and balances in place to prevent OCC from doing the wrong thing.

“Overall these are positive responses, resulting in the strong trust score we see. However, for many of the questions, roughly a third of responses were 'neutral'. This suggests there is opportunity for OCC to increase visibility, awareness and understanding of its environmental impact mitigation plans and activities, as well as its internal monitoring and compliance processes and how it follows and upholds external regulatory processes. It also suggests OCC can increase focus on 'closing the loop' on issues raised by the community and the decisions or investments made as a result,” shared Kate French, Senior Environment & Community Advisor at OCC.



Acceptance of Oaky Creek is predominantly influenced by the perceived negative environmental impacts that its operations have on the area. The higher the perceived impact, the lower the level of acceptance.

- Dust is perceived to be the highest environmental impact, albeit with only 24% feeling that OCC's activities increase the amount of dust in the community. 36% disagreed and the majority (40%) remained neutral.
- 40% and 42% also remained neutral on whether the activities of OCC had a negative impact on the quality of water and local cultural heritage or Indigenous sites (respectively).

"Again, the high level of neutral responses could indicate that people require further information on OCC's management of impacts on environmental and community factors," says Kate. "That presents OCC with an opportunity to further educate the community on these areas, answer any questions they may have and fill in any blanks."

What happens now?

As with all the Local Voices Surveys, these results enable OCC to understand the areas of concern or positivity from the community, identify the underlying causes behind these, and determine the most appropriate course of action to either boost and sustain any upturns, or mitigate any downturns in perception.

Insights from the 2024 Anchor Survey will also be used to inform OCC's Social Performance Management Plan, including their community investment budgeting and stakeholder engagement strategies. In addition, data from the Tieri Anchor Survey will feed into the wider Glencore Coal Queensland community perceptions and help inform the business.

Do you have feedback for Oaky Creek Coal?

Here are the various ways you can express your views, share your experiences, ask questions, request information, and provide suggestions:

- **Email the Environment & Community team:**
OCCEnvironment@glencore.com.au
- **Call OCC Admin:** (07) 4984 7100
- **Call Tieri Town Services:** (07) 4984 7700
- **Email Tieri Town Services:**
tieritownservices@glencore.com.au
- **Call OCC Community Hotline:** 1800 732 895
- **Join Tieri Community Reference Group:**
haveyoursay.chrc.qld.gov.au/Tieri-CRG

Participate in Voconiq's Local Voices Tieri surveys.

Click to join, access survey findings and further information.

CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Tackling the childcare challenge - expansion of Family Day Care



"The community has repeatedly told us that the availability of childcare continues to be an issue, especially for working women, or women who want to get back to work, but can't," says Kate.

In June, Town Services, OCC Environment & Community, OCC Human Resources and other stakeholders met to discuss and brainstorm a number of different options. One of these options was to expand the Family Day Care (FDC) model.

"This option was selected as the most feasible solution to pursue because it is scalable and has already proven to be successful," explains Kate. "The first FDC facility has been established in Tieri for a year now, and is working well, so we approached Enhance Family Day Care to discuss expanding the model in Tieri."

Enhance is Queensland's leading FDC provider. They work closely with the Educators to provide all the necessary administrative and compliance requirements, along with fully supporting them (and OCC) throughout the set-up process and beyond.

In September, OCC issued a call out to the community for expressions of interest (EOI) from experienced Early Childhood Educators (ECE) or Carers, anyone currently studying to become an ECE, or anyone who might be interested in enrolling to study.

"We are discussing the set-up options with Enhance and will be short listing possible Educators. Thank you to those who submitted their interest. We had a number of enquiries and we will be working with Enhance to short-list possible Educators in the new year," Kate said.

In the meantime, it's good news - OCC has selected a property in Banksia Street to house the next Family Day Care!

"All the necessary upgrades have been completed to ensure the house meets the required safety standards, including replacing all accessible windows and door glass, installing additional fencing, locks and screens, and setting exclusions around air conditioning units and hot water systems, to name a few," reveals Kate.

"Much of this work is difficult to see on the surface, but it has taken considerable time and resources to complete. Many thanks to the Town Services Department for assisting with these works."

OCC has also obtained approval from the Town Planning department at Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) to allow a family day care home-based business to operate from this address.

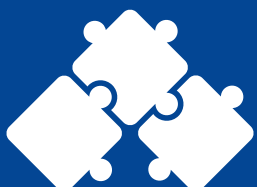
How can the community help?

OCC is encouraging anyone interested in pursuing a career as an Early Learning Educator to enrol for a Certificate 3 in Childcare. Completion of this training is the minimum requirement to run a family day care centre, a fantastic opportunity to start your own business.

"Childcare is a vital necessity in our community, but for the FDC, or any other model, to work, we need qualified childcare educators. There are a number of different providers available offering a variety of learning options, including certain components that can be done online, making it easier for those with children or existing work commitments to undertake," shares Kate.

We'll have more updates on the FDC expansion in the next edition of Tieri News. ●





CTM Links Launches Ladies Social Hub



CTM LINKS plays an important role in strengthening connections and generating social wellbeing across our local community.

Kath Hema, Tieri's Community Support & Development Officer (CSDO), and her team work tirelessly to create a warm, welcoming and inclusive community, and nurture this top little town we call home.

It's with this in mind that they have recently launched the Tieri Ladies Social Hub. As the name suggests, the aim is for this to be a 'hub' or a central meeting place where women can co-create activities, initiatives and other social, community or shared-interest groups.

The objective of the Hub is for the women of Tieri to have a welcoming place to socialise.

"This initiative aims to connect the women in our community, no matter your age, social group or life stage. Living in a small town can be a tremendous experience and lifelong friends can be made, the secret is to put yourself out there!" explains Kath.

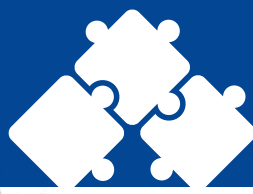
They have also created a Facebook Group called [Tieri Ladies Social Hub](#) where you can connect, make suggestions for the Hub and keep up to date with events, catch-ups and activities.

"If there is an activity, project or regular group you would like to see in town - such as a walking or running group, a book club, or meditation group - come along to one of our regular catch-ups, have a chat and share your ideas. From there, as a Hub, we can work together to start something new."



So far, the Ladies Social Hub has had two catch-ups. From these a new Craft Group has been established. The Craft Group has come together three times already, and have created some beautiful Christmas crafts and trinket shell dishes. Join the [Tieri Ladies Social Hub Facebook page](#) via the QR Code for further details.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE FUN



Community Christmas Appeal

CTM LINKS Neighbourhood Centre and Foodworks Tieri have joined together to provide an opportunity for you to share some kindness and generosity to individuals and families who could appreciate your support this festive season.

Keep an eye out on your next visit to Foodworks Tieri for the Christmas Appeal trolley. There, you can donate items that could make someone's Christmas a little easier.

Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions include:

- Pantry items such as canned food, festive food, a gift voucher, etc.
- Baby items such as nappies, baby care items, formula, etc.
- Personal items such as toiletries, sanitary items, phone power bank, etc.
- Children's gifts
- School stationery

All donations will be received and dispersed by CTM LINKS Neighbourhood Centre throughout the communities of Tieri, Middlemount & Capella. We aim to support all members of our communities, including seniors, families, youths and individuals.

Community Pantry

Did you know that every CTM LINKS office supports a Community Pantry?

Donations of non-perishable groceries items, personal toiletries and school supplies are always greatly appreciated.

Please call CTM LINKS Administration Officer, Stacey Barry, on 07 4984 8349 to organise delivery or pickup of your generous donation.

By giving to our Community Pantry, you will be supporting families and individuals in the Capella, Tieri & Middlemount Region - thank you.



Support Services

Another role CTM LINKS undertakes within our communities is to connect individuals and families with support services in our region, including tele-health, family support and legal services. For further information, please reach out to Kath and the team.

Calling for Volunteers

As part of their work to build social cohesion and support the community, CTM LINKS facilitates volunteering opportunities within Tieri and surrounding areas, including:

- Tieri Ladies Social Hub
- Tieri State School P&C
- Tieri State School Tuckshop
- Tieri Sharks Swim Club
- Tieri Possums Playgroup
- Central Highlands Karate
- Peak Downs Junior Pirates Rugby League Club
- Peak Downs Senior Pirates Rugby League Club
- Tieri Golf Club
- Tieri Local Ambulance Committee
- Tieri Community Reference Group
- Tieri Catholic Caring Shop
- CQ Wildlife Carers Inc
- And of course, with so much going on, CTM LINKS is always looking for volunteers themselves!

Drop in for a cuppa and to chat through the various opportunities with Kath and the CTM LINKS team at 26 Talagai Avenue, email tieri@ctmlinks.com.au, or call Kath on 0491 276 263 for further details.

You can also check out the Community Directory at tieri.com.au/business-directory or follow the [Tieri Noticeboard Facebook](#) page. ●





New Principal at Tieri State School - Susan Spackman

After beginning her teaching career at Tieri State School, Susan Spackman returned as a senior teacher nearly a decade later. In 2025, she'll be returning to TSS once again, this time as the Principal.

Susan lives in Capella with her family, including two children who are currently studying in high school.

We caught up with Susan for a chat about teaching and what the students, teachers, parents and community of Tieri can expect from her...

How long have you been teaching?

For 22 years. My first year was in Capella State School, then in 2003, I moved to TSS where I spent four to five years teaching. Around 2008, I moved to a school in Mackay for a change. I was there for another four or five years, before moving back to Capella State School and then back to TSS as Acting Principal in 2017 for six months.

My husband worked at Oaky No. 1. So even though I've moved around a lot, I've never really gone far. When Oaky No. 1 closed, we moved to Capella. Most recently, I was working at the Emerald Regional Office with the Education Futures Institute as a Senior Education Officer - Capability, supporting schools across the Central Queensland region with their teaching and learning of the Australian Curriculum.

How old were you when you knew you wanted to be a teacher?

I must have been around six or seven because I distinctly remember being asked that question in Grade 1 by my favourite teacher, Mrs Wilson. She was so kind to us and engaging, when she asked me I said I wanted to be a teacher...and that never changed!

What do you think makes a great teacher?

Definitely kindness, someone who has empathy and compassion. It's so important because every student walks into the classroom with their own story, their own background, their own context. A good teacher will try to understand what each student needs in order to prepare them to be in the mindset to learn.

Do you have a standout moment in your teaching career?

When I was in Mackay I taught a laptop class. It's common practice now, but this was around 2007 and that type of learning situation was still emerging. I didn't know how to do it, so I put myself back through University doing a Masters in Education with a focus on ICT in learning to upskill myself to teach in that environment.

I learned so much that I was able to bring back to the students, and to the other laptop teachers in the area. I was nominated for a Smart Classrooms teaching award for innovatively using ICT in the classroom, and I won. It goes to show that stepping out of your comfort zone can be really valuable and rewarding, in a number of ways.

Coincidentally, that skill certainly came in handy during Covid and I was able to help quite a few schools design teaching programs for online or 'anywhere, anytime' learning.

What attracted you to the Principal role at TSS?

The variety and the challenge, and the opportunity to be part of the community again. I've been working in curriculum-based roles for the last five years, operating across different schools. I'm looking forward to being in a position that allows me to refine how the Australian Curriculum is provided AND to deliver it. It gives me the opportunity to see it through. Equally, I'm excited to be around students and parents again. I've missed that connection and can't wait to be amongst the wider-school community once more.

What can the 'wider-school community' expect from you as Principal of TSS?

TSS is a fantastic school with a passionate and dedicated team behind it, from the teaching staff, to the P&C, to the volunteers and supporters. I'm looking forward to learning from them all and getting their input on what's working well and where any improvements might be needed.

I believe regular, clear and transparent communication is the foundation of success. I'm very student-focused and at the heart of every decision I make I will be prioritising the wellbeing of the students and their learning environment in ways that assists with their development at school.

I always seek to understand what people need and to be responsive to the needs of the parents and/or carers within the context of the wider school when decision making.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the teachers and support staff and I hope that my experience with curriculum will help create engaging teaching experiences, which, in turn, will transfer to a positive learning experience for the students. ●





Glencore Awards University Scholarships to Capella High Students



On Wednesday, 13th November, at Capella Cultural Centre, two students from Capella State High School (CSHS) were proudly awarded with a University Education Scholarship, from Glencore.

Hannah Willey and Willow Hema are Year 12 students studying at CSHS, which draws students from Capella, Tieri and the surrounding areas. Hannah has applied to study Nursing, and Willow a Bachelor of Psychological Science, both at James Cook University.

Recognising that many students from rural and regional areas are at a disadvantage when it comes to undertaking full time university education away from their hometown, the Glencore scholarship aims to provide a financial 'kick-start' to assist with the transition from high school to university during the first year of study.

As well as a scholarship, it's also an award that recognises the academic performance and community service already achieved by the student.

Full-Circle

The scholarships were presented to Hannah and Willow at the annual CSHS Awards Night, by Kate French, Senior Environment & Community Advisor at Oaky Creek Coal.

In a beautiful full-circle story - the kind that is unique to towns like ours - the awards were introduced by Bernalize Joubert who is currently teaching at CSHS. Bernalize grew up in Tieri, and her father still works at Oaky Creek North. She went to Capella High School and was a recipient of a Glencore Scholarship five years ago.

In her speech, Bernalize said the award had *"led me to where I am today, teaching at the very school where I completed my high school years."*

She recognised the 'significant step - academically, personally, and financially' of choosing to go to university, and acknowledged that the scholarship gave her *"financial support that covered essential textbooks and allowed me to relocate to Rockhampton for my first year to complete my studies."*

Before handing over to Kate, Bernalize reflected on being back at CSHS, saying it's *"a reminder of how the support we receive can lead to lasting, positive changes and inspire us to give back in meaningful ways."*

Congratulations to Hannah and Willow and all the very best for the next chapter of your life. ●





Heart of Australia Health Services



Since August 2023, Heart of Australia has been visiting Tieri on a quarterly basis to provide the following services:

- New and review cardiology consultations
- Exercise Stress Testing
- Stress Echocardiograms
- Transthoracic Echocardiograms
- Respiratory Function Tests

In that time, they have delivered 82 appointments, with positive feedback from local healthcare professionals and the local community.

Services are delivered onboard Heart of Australia's custom mobile health clinic – the Heart Truck – which parks near the Tieri Town Services building off of Talagai Avenue.

“Being able to provide these services to the Tieri community aligns deeply with Heart of Australia's mission to provide health equity to country Australians living in rural and remote communities,” says Ewan Wylie, Head of Operations for Heart of Australia.

“We're very proud to support the team at Tieri Medical Practice & Physiotherapy and the surrounding medical centres with our cardiology visits, and we look forward to continuing to do so in 2025.”

The confirmed months for visits in 2025 are February, May, August and November.

2025 will also see Heart of Australia expand their services nationally.

“We've partnered with the Australian Government to co-deliver the new National Lung Cancer Screening Program by providing mobile lung cancer screening services to rural and remote communities nationwide,” explains Ewan.

“With support from the Australian Government and our corporate partners, we'll be building five new mobile clinics, each fitted with a mobile CT scanner and state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to provide accessible lung cancer screening services across every state in Australia and the Northern Territory. This means we'll have a second CT truck travelling around Queensland from 2026.”

In addition to their core cardiology and respiratory services, Heart of Australia also delivers specialist women's health services at our neighbouring community, Middlemount.



The visiting gynaecologist, Dr Glenn Sterling, is the Medical Director of Life Fertility Clinic and one of Queensland's most renowned fertility specialists. He practiced as a busy obstetrician for many years, and now focuses on fertility, gynaecology and laparoscopic surgery.

Through his Heart of Australia outreach clinics, Dr Sterling provides consultations and examinations, including advice and treatment on:

- IVF and fertility
- PCO
- Endometriosis
- Menopause
- Cervical screening abnormalities
- Contraception
- And other women's health issues such as pelvic floor pain.

How to make an appointment

Heart of Australia is a private specialist service and a valid referral is required to access an appointment.

Step one:

Chat to your GP first about your health concerns. If they think a visit to Heart of Australia is right for you, they will send them a referral for you to see a specialist or undergo testing.

Step two:

Once Heart of Australia receives the referral, their Bookings Team will be in touch to discuss the next steps.

When it's time for your appointment, they will provide you with all the details, including any preparation required and any further information you need to bring with you. ●



MESSAGE FROM Nurse Sue

Nurse Sue, from Tieri Family Unit & Child Health Care, is taking a well-deserved break over the holiday season. In her absence, please phone Emerald Hospital on 07 4987 9497 if you need assistance.

Before she went on leave, Nurse Sue shared the following reminders for the new year:

- If you have a child going into **Year 7 or 10 at Capella High School** in 2025, please check for their consent envelopes for **vaccination** in the first 2 weeks of school. All forms must be returned with YES or NO to vaccinations. I can do your child's vaccination outside of school if you feel that is better for them.
- **Speech Assessments** will be done at **Kindergarten** in 2025. Consent forms will be sent home with your child for you to complete 2 weeks before assessment is done.
- **Hearing and Vision Assessments** will be done at **Prep** in 2025. Consent forms will be sent home with your child for you to complete 2 weeks before assessment is done.
- The next clinic for **skin checks** is in 2025. Stay tuned for more information.
- If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, vision or speech, please book an appointment to see me. ●





EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Building mental fitness. Together.

The Employee Assist Program is your coaching and counselling service providing confidential and short-term support for home and work.

CONVERGE INTERNATIONAL

The Converge International Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is there to support you to build the skills you need to adapt to the changing world of work and to thrive in all areas of life.

OUR SERVICES

The Employee Assist Program is provided independently from Oaky Creek Coal. When using The Employee Assist Program, you will speak with a qualified, experienced counsellor across a range of issues including:

- Personal and emotional stress
- Relationship or family matters
- Work-related stress
- Sleep concerns
- Nutrition advice
- Financial coaching
- Interpersonal conflict and tension
- Changes in your work environment
- Grief and bereavement
- Career issues
- Mental health concerns
- Personal crisis or trauma

OUR COUNSELLORS

- Understand your situation and gain insights to inform decisions and directions
- Develop strategies to drive positive changes in behaviour and lifestyle
- Learn how to adapt to change and seize opportunities
- Provide coping strategies when dealing with difficult situations

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Oaky Creek Coal offers an independent Employee Assistance Program

Your Employee Assistance Program is:

A confidential service

Available to all employees

Available for up to 3 sessions per annum

Details of your discussion will not be shared with your manager or your workplace. You can read our Privacy Policy on our website.

CONTACT US

To make an appointment to speak with a Converge International EAP counsellor:



1300 OUR EAP
(1300 687 327)



Visit www.convergeinternational.com.au and click on Contact Us to access our Live Chat service.



Download our **EAP Connect** App and connect with us through the Appointment icon



More Information

T 1300 687 327 (Australia)
T 0800 666 367 (New Zealand)
T +613 8620 5300 (International)
E eap@convergeintl.com.au
convergeinternational.com.au



Protect Your Pets This Snake Season



With snake season upon us, we reached out to Maraboon Vet Surgery in Emerald to ask for their advice on how to keep our pets safe. Here's what Dr Angela Sutherland had to say...

Our curious and favourite four-legged friends have natural hunting instincts so it's no surprise they may cross paths with a snake. Now that the weather is warming up, the snakes are on the move and we are likely to see a lot more snakes on our daily walks or in our backyards.

The most venomous snakes found in Australia that cause the most bites include brown snakes (commonly found here in Central Queensland), black snakes and tiger snakes.

Snake bites can happen in the blink of an eye and the venom acts quickly. All snake bites - or even suspected snake bites - should be treated as life-threatening. In the event your pet is seen with the snake, ensure you do not try to catch the snake or put yourself at risk of being bitten. You are best to contact a local snake catcher if required.



Signs of a snake bite

If your dog or cat is bitten by a snake, they may show the following signs:

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Shaking or twitching of the muscles
- Wobbly gait leading to hind leg weakness, paralysis
- Dilated pupils
- Vomiting and/or drooling
- Panting or shallow breathing
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- No wound – you usually CANNOT see the snake bite!

Every snake bite case is different, and the signs can vary depending on multiple factors. including the type of snake that has bitten your pet, the amount of venom injected into your pet (depends on the size and maturity of the snake), and the site of the snake bite.

If your dog or cat is bitten by a snake

There is no home treatment for a snake bite, but here's what you can do on the way to your local vet clinic.

- Remember TIME is critical, the sooner you can get your pet to the vet the better. If you see your pet near a snake, assume they have been bitten until tested at the vet clinic
- Stay calm and keep your pet as still and quiet as possible – this can help slow down toxin absorption
- DO NOT try to catch, kill or ID the snake
- DO NOT wait until symptoms develop, the sooner you get into the clinic the better prognosis your pet has to recover from the snake bite
- Immediately travel to your local vet clinic, calling on the way if possible to better prepare the team for your arrival.

Veterinary treatment

Snake venom carries a large range of toxins that damage tissues and impair many of the body's vital functions - they attack the nervous system and interfere with the body's clotting mechanisms.

On arrival at the clinic, your pet will be triaged by the veterinary team and assess what emergency care may be required. Every case is different so if, on arrival, your pet is stable, the veterinarian will perform a physical exam and will perform a blood test to check your pet's clotting abilities as this is one of the functions affected by a snake bite. In more severe cases, your pet may require immediate oxygen therapy.

If clotting factors on the blood test are prolonged and taking into consideration clinical signs, the veterinarian will then go ahead and administer the antivenin, other injectable medications and intravenous fluids.

Your pet's condition will determine how long they may need to be hospitalised. Some pets will lose their swallow or gag reflex and will not be able to go home until paralysis is reduced, reflexes have returned, vitals are normal and clotting ability is normal. Some pets can be hospitalised anywhere from 24 hours up to a week.



Home care advice after a snake bite

Brown snake envenomation acts in two ways; it can cause paralysis and it can cause bleeding tendencies. The paralysis can take several days to several weeks to fully resolve; it is very important to follow the below instructions carefully to ensure the best and quickest recovery.

Complete Rest:

- Please confine to a small area e.g. the size of a dog pen, laundry or small yard; tie up dogs if needed. Please ensure adequate shade at all times.
- Restrict exercise for 1 week, then introduce slowly as your dog will tire easily initially.
- For cats keep indoors for 1 week then slowly allow them to go outside for short periods gradually building in time once back to full strength.

Feeding:

- Please feed soft food until toilet habits return to normal; mild constipation may otherwise occur.

Prevention

Of course, prevention is always better than cure, so follow these tips to help limit the risk of your furry friend being bitten:

- Take special care during snake season, generally from October to April but always be alert!
- Keep backyards maintained and clear of cover for snakes – keep grass mowed and areas free of rubbish, woodpiles and weeds

- Remove food sources that may attract rodents. Snakes come into yards after prey but be careful with using rat baits and poisons! Best to use rat traps instead of baits
- Choose off-leash areas carefully, ensure these areas are not near long grass or known to have snakes. Try walking your dogs on a leash when taking them out of the yard
- Stick to tracks when taking dogs on walks
- Where possible, keep cats indoors
- Try to supervise pets when outside
- Invest in Snake Repellents for your yard
- Communicate with your neighbours and local community pages if you see a snake to help other pet owners stay clear.

Unfortunately, most animals do not learn from being bitten by a snake. If your animal is bitten there is no long-lasting immunity; they will need to present straight away. They can receive more than one dose of anti-venom, but please let the vet know that they have already received brown snake anti-venom previously.

If you have any questions about snake bites, or suspect your pet has been bitten, call us immediately on 07 4987 6800. ●





Ensuring the Safe Relocation of Snakes

Queensland's native wildlife is protected by the Nature Conservation Act 1992, and the associated regulations to ensure the conservation of nature.

To comply with this legislation, Oaky Creek Coal holds a Damage Mitigation Permit, provided by the Department of Environment, Science, Tourism and Innovation (DESTI), that allows appropriately trained, competent and licensed snake catchers to safely capture and relocate snakes found at the OCC mine site and across Tieri.

We asked one of our authorised local snake catchers, Allan Barry, for his tips when it comes to snake sightings:

What should someone do if they see a snake?

Don't panic or try to catch it. The most important thing is to keep an eye on it so we know where it is and can safely catch the snake when we arrive.

How can they contact you?

Via the Tieri Noticeboard on Facebook, or the Tieri community directory. Or you can tag me in a Facebook post and someone will usually ring me. I'm contactable on 0409 125 161 or 0458 494 413.

What should people do whilst they wait for you to arrive?

Keep your distance whilst keeping watch of where the snake is so you can tell us when we get there.

What information - if any - do you need prior to arriving?

It doesn't really matter what type of snake it is, it's just really helpful to know where it is. And it also helps to know if you have a dog or not.

What SHOULDN'T people do?

Do not try to catch the snake yourself. Do not try to kill the snake. And do not get in a panic - if you don't try to hurt the snake, it won't hurt you.

Top tips on how to reduce the chances of seeing a snake on our property?

Keep your yard mowed. And reduce or remove any food scraps or poultry feed laying around. That will attract mice, and the mice will attract snakes.

Once Allan (or one of our other local snake catchers) has captured the snake, they transport it to a safe area for release on the same day as capture. This area must be within 1 kilometre of where the snake was caught, ensuring it is returned to its natural habitat and maximising its chance of survival.

The snake catchers then complete a Snake Relocation Form and send it to the OCC Environment & Community (E&C) team. As required by the Damage Mitigation Permit, all snake relocations, either on the mine site or in Tieri, must be recorded by the OCC E&C team and reported to the government on a quarterly basis. ●





New Sports Group - Social Netball

For a small town, we have a wide variety of sporting clubs to join, including golf, tennis, footy, and karate.

Recognising a gap in the market, local resident, Natalie Martell, recently expanded on this with the establishment of a new netball social group.

We spoke to Natalie about her intentions for the group, how people can get involved, and what she hopes it will bring to the community...

What drove you to set up the social netball group?

We had a ladies social netball group a few years ago at the gym. It was held after school and gave Mums (well, anyone really!) some time out for themselves. Then Covid hit and everything had to shut down.

When the new multipurpose courts were built, it presented the ideal opportunity to start up again.

Are you an official 'Club' or just a social group?

We're just a social group at the moment, but we've had so many people interested in taking part that I'm keen to look at a more official 'Club' in the future.

How many people are currently part of the group?

95! I'm stoked. We were originally going to be ladies only, but The Pirates wanted something to do in their off season so we opened it up to the men as well, which has been great.

How does it work?

We play our games on Thursday nights at 6.15pm and 7pm. There are two games going at once. Each game lasts 40-minutes, and is split into 8-minute quarters, with 2-minutes rest in between. After the first games, we have a quick 5-minute switchover, before the 7pm games begin.

To help provide some consistency and allow people to get to know each other, everyone is allocated to a team when they sign up to join the group. Alex Jarquet, Tieri's physiotherapist ([page 9](#)), has been instrumental in this. We have eight teams in total, six adult teams and two high school teams. Even though netball only has seven players on each side, we've allocated between 12-16 people per team to allow for shift work, holidays, sickness and general life 'admin' which we know gets in the way sometimes.

How many games have you played so far?

Only three! We began in October but we were rained out in our first week! It rained again the second week, but we played anyway.

The rain has certainly not been our friend this season - it seems to be a ritual for it to rain on a Thursday! But we have been lucky enough to play some games in-between the rain.

Who can get involved?

Anyone and everyone! The teams will always be looking for people to join. Our youngest player is 14 and there isn't an upper age limit.





It also doesn't matter if you've never played before. In fact, 50 per cent have never played, especially a lot of the boys. After so many years playing footy, it's quite entertaining watching them try not to run when they get the ball!

We have people who are really good, and others who are doing it for the first time. Regardless of where your ability is, everyone is there for the same reason - to have some fun and get a bit of exercise. It's a really supportive environment.

There's no cost and no minimum commitment. All you need is a team attitude and some exercise gear or gym wear (no jewellery allowed, for safety reasons). Each team has their own set of bibs which you'll be provided with when you join.

Of course, you don't have to play to get involved. Many just come to watch and support the players. There's been heaps of community involvement already. There's a playground for the kids and I'm trying to get a BBQ set up down there so we can do a sausage sizzle or something at the end of the games. Watch this space!

How can people contact you if they want to get involved?

Join the [Tieri Social Netball Facebook page](#), or message me - Natalie Martell - on Facebook.

You've finished for the holiday season. When will you start back up?

In the New Year, once the schools have gone back. Probably around 30th January, but keep an eye on our Facebook page to get the latest updates.

What do you hope the group will bring to the Tieri community?

A fun, social way to keep fit without having to think about it. You rock up, run around, have a laugh, catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and burn a few calories! It's a great way to connect.

One of the reasons I am trying to get BBQ facilities at the courts is the benefit it will bring to the whole community who like to get together to play, support or simply watch a game of tennis, netball, or basketball.

Where would you like to see the group in a year's time?

It would be great to develop into a proper Club, but from experience, I know that Clubs need volunteers in order to survive, and volunteers can be hard to get. So, if anyone is keen, get in touch and who knows! ●





Nominate Your Local Sporting Hero for the CHRC 2025 Sport & Active Recreation Awards



Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) is calling on the community to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our local sporting champions. Nominations are now open for the 2025 Sport and Active Recreation Awards, set to take place on February 15th, 2025.

Whether it's the young athlete breaking records, the coach who's made a difference, or the dedicated volunteer working behind the scenes, these awards are an opportunity to showcase the talent, hard work, and spirit that make our region's sports scene so vibrant.

Mayor Janice Moriarty is urging community members to come forward with nominations.

“We all know someone who's gone above and beyond in their sport or volunteer role. This awards night is about recognising those unsung heroes, whether they're athletes, coaches, or volunteers. It's a chance to give them the recognition they truly deserve and celebrate their incredible contributions to our community,” said Mayor Moriarty.

How to Nominate

The nomination process is simple, and your nomination could help highlight someone's hard work and dedication and show them how much they are appreciated.

To ensure that all aspects of the local sporting community are recognised, the awards cover a wide range of categories, including:

- Junior Athlete of the Year
- Athlete of the Year
- Athlete of the Year with a Disability
- Coach of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Sportsmanship Award
- Volunteer Recognition Award
- Event or Program of the Year
- Organisation of the Year
- CH Hall of Champion

To nominate your local sporting star, visit form.jotform.com/242630933081856.

Nominations close on Monday, January 6th, 2025. The winners will be announced at the award's night on February 15th, 2025.

By nominating, you can celebrate those who have inspired others, shown exceptional sportsmanship, or made lasting contributions to their sport. Don't miss this opportunity to recognise the dedication and passion of those who contribute so much to our community's sporting life.

For more information, contact CHRC on 1300 242 686.



MULTIPURPOSE COURTS UPDATE:

Council recently conducted a community survey regarding the new Tieri multipurpose courts, built in partnership with Glencore.

The results showed a number of common trends including:

- accessibility challenges
- concerns with the multi-use design
- and a number of suggestions for improvement.

This feedback will be considered by the council in conjunction with Glencore.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

14 December - 27 January SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

AT THE TIERI LIBRARY

Corner of Grasstree & Annrouye Streets, Tieri

Activity	Date	Time	Ages	Price
Christmas Movie & Crafts - The Grinch, Reindeer Biscuits and Cards	Monday 16 December	10:30am	6-12	Free
STEM Kits - a variety of kits	Tuesday 17 December	10:30am	6-12	Free
Karaoke Jam Session and Tie Dying Socks (YOUTH PARTNERED)	Friday 20 December	10:30am	10-17	Free
Robotics	Tuesday 7 January	10:30am	6-12	Free
DIY Slime Lab	Thursday 9 January	10:30am	6-12	Free
Interactive Movie - Toy Story	Tuesday 14 January	10:30am	6-12	\$2
Craft Activity - Herb Heads	Thursday 16 January	10:30am	6-12	\$2
Craft Activity - Australia Day	Tuesday 21 January	10:30am	6-12	\$2
Blocks and Lego	All holidays	Open hours	6-12	Free

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

To register your interest for any of the above events, speak to a library staff member. Some events have a limited capacity so you may be placed on a waiting list.

- Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult for all library activities.

For more information contact your library on **4984 8270** or tierilibrary@chrc.qld.gov.au



APPLICATIONS OPEN

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) promotes the role and value of arts, culture and heritage as key drivers of diverse, inclusive and strong communities.

Over \$70,000 available over three rounds for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Open to individuals, not-for-profit groups, clubs and more!

- Professional development
- Art shows and exhibits
- Kids art workshops
- Workshops/classes
- Plays, music, comedy
- Creative ideas welcomed!



IMPORTANT DATES



Central Highlands Regional Council

In partnership with

Queensland Government

LEARN MORE!

chrc.qld.gov.au/radf

1300 242 686





End of an Era - OCC Dragline Decommissioning Project

After four decades as iconic landmarks on the horizon, Oaky Creek Coal's Draglines have finally been decommissioned, marking the end of an era.

Since 2021, Paul Cane, Projects Superintendent at OCC, has been working with various teams and advisors to plan for the safe demolition, removal and recycling of the two gigantic and iconic pieces of machinery. We spoke to Paul about this major milestone in OCC and Tieri's history...

Paul, first up, what exactly is a Dragline?

It's a massive bulk earth moving piece of equipment that's used to remove the overburden soil and get us closer to the coal. A Dragline is the largest piece of equipment in an open cut mining operation. It's like a giant shovel - the length of the boom alone is 99 metres!

When did the Draglines arrive at OCC?

Draglines DL01 and DL02 have been with OCC since the early 1980s, operating night and day at our open cut mine. When our open cut operations closed in the early 2000s, they were



essentially put out to pasture. With our progressive rehabilitation strategy, the time came when we needed to demolish them and take the materials away for recycling so the land is cleared ready for rehabilitation.

How do you go about a project of this magnitude?

Well, we've been working on it for over two and a half years!

First we had to scope out the project. It was quite strange going into the Draglines for the first time, like stepping into a time warp. The last shift had simply turned off the lights and walked out of there and no-one had been back in them since. Everything was frozen in time, exactly as it had been left.

We went out to tender to find a company with the capabilities to safely and effectively blast and demolish the Draglines. We engaged a company called CMA who had recently done something similar at Collinsville and were able to demonstrate their experience using the 'Jaws of Life' which we knew would be crucial to the project. The Jaws of Life is like a giant pair of scissors that cuts through steel. We needed a team that could safely operate this machinery on an excavator that reaches up 60-stories!

Once they were on board, we worked with CMA to design the blast plans, whilst also ensuring we had all the legal and environmental



plans and permits in place. Alongside this, we worked with the Surface Infrastructure Team to design and make the relevant road network so the road-trains could safely access the demolition site, load up and carry 40-60 tonnes of material out of there at a time.

When did the physical work actually begin?

The work started on 1st July 2024. In addition to building the road network, there was a lot of pre-blast mechanical work to be carried out to the frame and structure to make sure it all fell logically and safely during the demolition.

On Saturday, 26th October, CMA successfully completed the blast of Dragline DL02. They used around 6kgs of shape-charging explosives (the stuff you see in war movies where they sticky-tape it to the side of a tank or building).

To ensure everyone's safety, we established a one-kilometre blast exclusion zone and informed all the relevant farm and landholders in the zone of what was happening.

What have some of the comments been?

It's become a bit of a talking point around the mine and throughout town, as people recall memories and share stories about their experiences of the Draglines over the last 40 years. From "I spent nearly 10 years working in there", to "My first job was on the Dragline", to "I painted the floors in there", and even "I got married the year they arrived!"

But everyone recognises that it's all about progression, and it's time to rehabilitate the land and restore it to the same or better condition in which we took it on.

What stage is the decommission project currently in?

The team is currently using lancers and oxy cutting - a thermal cutting process that uses pure oxygen and fuel gas to cut through materials, such as plate steel - to cut the broken Dragline into smaller pieces. This is so they can fit into our 40-foot container trucks on the road train so it can all be safely removed from the site. The container trucks can carry around 20 tonnes of steel per trailer. We anticipate we'll need around 150 loads to remove everything from the site.

Once on the road train, the steel is taken to a middle storage facility at Mackay, Townsville or Gladstone ports for processing, where it will be broken down further into even smaller pieces and shipped overseas.

Finally, we bring in a huge electromagnet to pick up any loose debris from the surface - it's a bit like mowing the lawn! - so we can safely and environmentally dispose of it, clearing the way for the land rehabilitation teams to continue through the area.

When do you expect the project to be complete?

We expect the final phase of Dragline DL02 to be completed by Christmas, weather dependent of course. We'll then take a break over the holiday season before moving onto Dragline DL01, about 15kms away, to repeat the process. That should take us around four months to complete and clear for rehabilitation.

It's certainly a big project and, on behalf of the team, I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in keeping the project on track, on time and a safe place to work. It's definitely been a group effort! ●





INSIDE OUT WITH...

KATIE DUNCAN

Life on a mine site is like no other. The people you work with are more than just colleagues, they are your friends and family. They have your back, and you have theirs. Every day you work hard to make sure the other gets home safely at the end of your shift.

We're fortunate to have so many incredible people working on site at Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) and we want to get to know them "Inside Out"...

Name: Katie Duncan

How long have you been with Glencore and Oaky Creek?

Two years.

What's your current role?

Executive Assistant to Damien Wynn, General Manager of Oaky Creek Coal.

What are you responsible for?

Looking after Damien's movements, meetings and any guests that come to site. I also assist the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and am part of the Human Resources (HR) Team. And I look after a few odd site administration jobs, including travel, stationery and archiving.

What does a typical day look like for you?

I wake up at 4:45am and leave for work at 5:30am. I either join the 6am Pre-Start or jump straight into work. From then, every day is different depending on what is happening on site. Sometimes it is organising the guests coming to site that day or week, other days it's getting through the emails and actioning anything, and other days, if I am lucky, I am heading Underground to see the crews.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

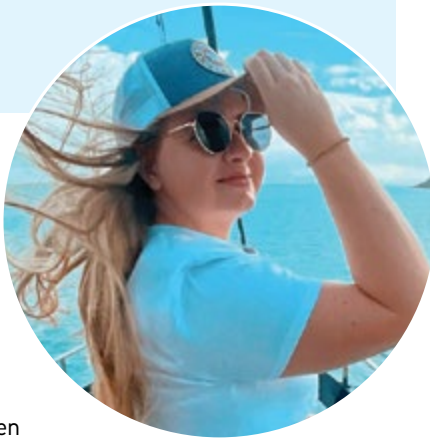
The people. Oaky Creek Coal has the most incredible group of people working onsite and I love the comradery.

What's the most challenging part?

At times, my workload. Depending on timing, I could be juggling multiple audits, visitors and everyday tasks, but I am aware that is also a little self-inflicted as I always try to help anyone who asks.

Have you always worked in the mining industry?

Not at all! Before OCC, I'd worked in the hospitality industry since I was 14, with eight years experience in hotels specifically. My previous job was Sales Executive at Rydges Mackay Suites.



What attracted you to the mining industry, Glencore and OCC/Tieri?

When I was working in Mackay, I was exposed to many mining companies and have always been intrigued by the industry. I chose Oaky Creek as my husband has worked Underground here for eight years now.

If you weren't working as an Executive Assistant what would be your ideal job?

I love my job, but, if I could do anything in the world, it would be travelling for a living, obviously!

What do you like to do outside of work?

Anything outdoors: camping, hiking, fishing, jet skiing, or 4-wheel driving.

Who do you spend your time with?

My husband, my family, my friends and my very spoiled dalmatian, Winston. I am always running all over the countryside to spend time with the people I care for.

What's a little-known fact about you?

I quit my job at Rydges to go on a two-month honeymoon to the Cape and tick off the famous Old Telegraph Track.

What movie have you watched and rewatched the most...and why?

Coyote Ugly, because who doesn't want to be dancing on a bar?

What song will you always turn up louder?

Time of our Lives by Pitbull & Ne-Yo.

Favourite quote?

"You do not find the happy life. You make it." ●





Rehabilitation of OCC's Aquila Open Cut Pit

Following the completion of coal mining at Oaky Creek Coal's Aquila Open Cut Pit in the mid 2000s, work has been going on to prepare the land for rehabilitation.

Since October 2023, approximately 150 hectares of land have been reshaped into a free-draining landform to meet the approved post-mining land use of 'Terrestrial Ecosystem Services – Open Woodland'.

This work has been supported by a fleet of typically five D11 dozers operating seven days a week, moving and reshaping an impressive six-million cubic meters of material to create a stable and sustainable landform.

To enhance soil conditions and encourage successful vegetation growth, a range of soil amelioration products, including gypsum, and fertiliser will be applied. These will be distributed using spreaders, ensuring optimal coverage and soil improvement.

To align with the approaching wet season, the land will be seeded via drone in December with a variety of native grasses, such as Queensland Bluegrass and Kangaroo Grass, alongside a Japanese Millet cover crop to provide initial erosion protection and improve soil stability.

Native legumes and tree species, including Ironbark, Blue Gum, and Poplar Box seed will also be spread in an effort to mimic the region's natural ecosystem and support long-term ecological restoration. These efforts will ensure the land evolves into a thriving habitat for native wildlife and contributes to regional biodiversity and ecosystem services.

“We are proud of the collaborative effort and progress to date and extend our gratitude to the OCC site personnel and key contractors, including the Surface Operations Department, AE Group Civil and Mining Construction and PH Survey, for their exceptional dedication and expertise in delivering this rehabilitation work - thank you for your ongoing support in restoring this landscape for future generations,” says Joel May, Environment & Community Manager, OCC. 

We look forward to sharing further updates as the site's rehabilitation evolves. ●



Annual OCC Neighbouring Landholders Meeting

Every year, Oaky Creek Coal invites all its neighbouring landholders to join them for an open conversation on all matters that might affect or be of interest to them, and to ask questions, raise any concerns, or share any feedback with OCC.

There are 15 landholders that neighbour either OCC's active mining areas, or their exploration areas which extend up to an hour's drive away towards Blackwater and Emerald. All 15 landholders were invited to join the OCC Environment & Community team at Tieri Bar & Grill Meeting Room on Tuesday 26th November, and three families attended.

Presentations included updates on OCC's mining operations; exploration drilling activities; the dragline decommissioning project; their rehabilitation work, including progressive rehabilitation certification and their Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP); management of pests such as weeds and feral animals; communication channels; community investment grants; community surveys; Tieri businesses and services; and upcoming events.

Importantly, the meeting also provided an opportunity for the landholders to provide feedback on the pasture grasses OCC uses in its post-mining land use grazing areas.



“ Our neighbouring landholders all run successful grazing operations and are highly experienced land managers, so their feedback and input into this area is invaluable to OCC, ” explains Kate French, Senior Environment & Community Advisor at OCC.

The event concluded with the E&C team handing out the annual Christmas hamper to the landholders and extending the opportunity to do a tour of the mine and to catch up at other times throughout the year, in addition to this annual event. ●





Glencore Joint Venture (JV) Partner, Sumitomo, visits OCC



Narumi, tell us about your role and your company...

My company, Sumitomo Coal Australia Pty. (SCAP), is one of the joint ventures involved with Oaky Creek Coal Mine. SCAP holds a 25% share of OCC and is responsible for overseeing all activities that occur on-site. My role as Joint Venture (JV) Trainee involves having a deep and broad understanding of OCC's mining operations and identifying bottlenecks to improve those operations.

What brought you to Oaky Creek?

Some of my SCAP colleagues had previously worked at OCC. I heard their inspiring stories when I was at university, which impressed me and led me to dream of working with Sumitomo and Glencore one day.

What's the goal of the program?

The goal of this program is to become an effective JV Manager. A good JV Manager should understand what is happening on-site, how OCC secures safety, the priorities of each department, and, of course, the fundamentals of underground mining.

How long have you been/will you be at OCC?

I have been at OCC for three months as of October and will be here until the end of January 2025.

You spent the first week of October with the Environment and Community (E&C) team; what sort of things did you get to experience?

The E&C team took me wherever I needed to go to get a complete understanding of the work they do. That week was shortly after the bushfire, so we visited the affected areas to inspect the natural

conditions and affected areas. I also learned about our water management, rehabilitation efforts, and the high-tech systems the E&C team uses to identify the different types of plant and tree species and monitor their condition without physical inspection.

What was your key takeaway from that week?

The essential role that water plays in mining operations, and the amount of work the E&C team does to uphold OCC's legal, environmental and social responsibility to manage and monitor its water usage and authorised releases back into the Oaky Creek catchment. This work is to ensure there is no negative impact on the aquatic values of either Oaky Creek or Sandy Creek, and therefore no risk to the vast nature, wildlife and lovely community that surround OCC.

Which other departments have you spent time with?

I have worked with almost all departments: Health, Safety and Training, Technical Services, CHPP (the wash plant), Surface Projects, Engineering/Warehouse and, next up, I'll be with the Production team where I will be shadowing crews and deputies to understand how they carry out the plans and procedures prepared by the engineers.

What do you hope to leave OCC with?

I hope to leave with lasting friendships. My experience here has been amazing, thanks to the wonderful people at OCC.

Anything else you would like to share?

Please feel free to contact me if you need tips for a trip to Japan. 😊



Australia Post Tieri	4984 8108
Bi-rite Electrical	4981 6650
BKT Taxation Bookkeeping Services	0418 390 664
Blackdown Accommodation Services	4984 8131
C&K Tieri Community Kindergarten	4984 8304
Capella Cultural Centre	4984 9300
Capella State High School	4988 7333
CHRC Library & Transaction Centre	4984 8270
Coalfields Spine Care Chiropractic	0402 974 801
DBS Recruitment & Labour Hire	1800 327 753
Foodworks Tieri	4984 8480
Hodgson Building & Excavations	0438 390 664
Marist College Emerald	4994 9100
McKie Pet Sitting	0407 651 345
Tieri Ampol Service Station	4984 8434
Tieri Bar & Grill	4981 6692
Tieri Bakery	0401 902 952
Tieri Brolga Hotel Motel	4984 8555
Tieri Daycare	4984 8554
Tieri Family Unit & Child Health Centre.....	4884 6200
Tieri Medical & Physiotherapy	4984 8386
Tieri Pool.....	4981 6131
Tieri Pharmacy	4981 6756
Tieri Police Station	4932 3970
Tieri State School	4981 7555
Tieri Trade Shed	4981 6088
Tieri Microbusinesses	Refer Tieri Noticeboard Facebook

Community Information & Support

CTM LINKS Community Support & Development	0491 276 263
Justice of the Peace	Enquire Tieri Noticeboard Facebook
CH Wildlife Carers Inc.....	0475 288 301
Snake Catchers - Allan Barry	0458 494 413
Brad Lane	0400 260 478
CFMEU Oaky North Lodge	0419 761 807
13 Health (Assessment, Referral, Advice)	13 43 25 84
LIFELINE (Phone Support)	13 11 14
1800 Respect	
(Domestic Family Violence Support)	1800 426 820
MensLine Aust. (Prof. Counselling & Support)	1300 78 99 78
Kids Helpline	
(Prof. Counselling & Support Ages 5-25)	1800 55 1800
CQ Financial Counselling Service	4928 1844
QLD Gambling Helpline	1800 858 858
QLD Alcohol & Drug Information & Support	1800 177 833
Tieri Community Church	tiericomunitychurch@gmail.com
Nearest Vets	Emerald or Clermont

Social Media - Facebook
Tieri Noticeboard

Oaky Creek Coal & Town Services

Town Services - Housing / Maintenance	4984 7700
Membership Golf Club / Gym Pool	4984 7700
Kids Club Creche Gym / Pool.....	4987 7700
Oaky Creek Coal Reception	4984 7100
Oaky North Comms	4984 7144
Oaky Surface CHPP Comms	4984 7292
OCC HR & Payroll	4984 7401
Oaky Creek Coal Community Hotline.....	1800 732 895
Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	1300 687 633

Emergency Services

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000)

Police Fire Ambulance 000
Police Link 131 444 SES 13 25 00

Central Highlands Regional Council

PH: 1800 242 686

WATERING DAYS (for Private Gardens)

Mondays	No Sprinkler use
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 4 - 8pm	Zone A (NW of Malvern Av.)
Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 4 - 8pm	Zone B (SE of Malvern Av.)

BIN DAY - THURSDAY

Red Lin Bin (General Waste) WEEKLY	
Yellow Lid Bin (Recycling) FORTNIGHTLY (Even numbered weeks)	

WASTE FACILITY - DUMP

Tieri - Capella Road (3km from town)	
Monday - Sunday 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed 1:00 - 1:30pm)	

TIERI LIBRARY & TRANSACTION CENTRE

Corner of Grasstree & Anncrouye Streets	
Monday Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm	
Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm	

Community Groups & Volunteering

- Tieri State School P&C
 - Tieri State School Tuckshop
 - Tieri Sharks Swim Club
 - Tieri Possums Playground
 - Central Highlands Karate
 - Peak Downs Junior Pirates Rugby League Club
 - CTM Links Community Support Network Inc.
 - Tieri Golf Club
 - Tieri Local Ambulance Committee
 - Tieri Community Reference Group
 - Tieri Catholic Caring Shop
 - Central Queensland Wellbeing Hubs Inc.
 - Central Highlands Wildlife Carers Inc.
- Email: tieri@ctmlinks.com.au for contact details

OAKY CREEK
COAL
GLENCORE



Follow QR Code to www.tieri.com.au for more about Tieri, Upcoming Events & Updated Contacts

DATA CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING - SEPTEMBER 2022

Share your story in Tieri News

Do you have news or a story to share with Tieri regarding your local business, service, community organisation or sports club?



**SUBMIT YOUR
STORY HERE**



07 4984 7700 • 11 Talagai Avenue, Tieri

tieri.com.au

Proudly supported by:

**OAKY CREEK
COAL**

GLENCORE

