

TIERI NEWS

WINTER 2026

Tieri
a top little town



OCC Achieves Rehabilitation Certification

Spotlight On... Igniting Dance Studio
Little Love Care Opens Its Doors

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ANZAC Day 2026

FROM THE Editor



As I write this edition's 'Message From the Editor', I find myself reflecting on just how much disruption the world seems to have experienced over the past few months. Globally, nationally and locally, there has been no shortage of change. Oaky Creek and the Tieri community have certainly not been exempt from that.

Change is rarely just about systems, structures or business decisions — it is ultimately about people. It's about the way we support one another through periods of transition, the way we welcome new faces into our community, and the way we acknowledge and appreciate those who have helped shape it.

Over recent months we have welcomed a number of new employees and families to Oaky and Tieri, many of whom you will hear from throughout this edition in our Meet The Locals ([pages 13 - 14](#)) and Inside Out ([pages 36 - 40](#)) profiles. Starting somewhere new — whether it's a workplace or a town — can be both exciting and daunting, and I encourage everyone to continue showing the warmth and community spirit that makes Oaky and Tieri such a special place to call home. For example, it's been wonderful to see community members creating opportunities for connection through initiatives such as the Tieri Ladies Social Club local craft group ([page 28](#)). Sometimes the smallest gatherings can have the biggest impact — providing friendship, support, creativity and a sense of belonging, particularly during times of change and uncertainty.

We have also welcomed some positive additions to the businesses and services within our community, including a new dance studio ([page 9](#)), Mystical Creations ([page 11](#)), and the reopening of a hair salon in Tieri, thanks to Aurora Beauty Parlour ([page 26](#)). It's fantastic to see Jodie's business thriving, and an important reminder of the value of accessible support and connection in regional communities.

At the same time, periods of change also mean saying goodbye to people who have made a meaningful contribution to our work, community and lives. We wished Damien Wynn a fond farewell as he left Oaky for a new chapter. To steer the ship going forward, we have welcomed back a familiar face to Oaky Creek Coal: Bernie Lambley ([page 3](#)).

We also marked the departure of a much-loved figure at OCC - James Vardanega, or 'Jimmy V' as most of us know him. After 20 years working in the Outbye department (and the briefest of stints in Production!), Jimmy accumulated five lockers full of tools, 196 training certificates, dozens of mentees, and countless friendships at Oaky. He's been the kind of person everyone hopes to have on their team - hard working, dependable, and someone you can trust without question. His commitment to Mines Rescue is something that we're all extremely grateful for, and I know the current and future teams aim to live up to his standards. Jimmy has now set sail on his retirement...and on an adventure across the world! We caught up with him from Cambodia to get his reflections on life at Oaky ([page 45](#)).

Speaking of mines rescue, we are incredibly proud of our OCN Mines Rescue Team who placed second at the recent QMRS Memorial Cup. To represent Oaky at that level is an achievement in itself, and placing second against some of the best teams in

the industry is something the entire community should be proud of. Mines Rescue requires an extraordinary level of commitment, discipline and sacrifice, often on top of already demanding operational roles. We're forever thankful to the elite group of people who dedicate themselves year after year to protecting and supporting others. It was wonderful to see some of our mines rescue volunteers honoured at the 2026 QMRS Service Awards ([page 44](#)).

From all of us, to all of you - thank you and congratulations!



As we continue navigating change together, remember that communities are not defined by the buildings, businesses or infrastructure — they are defined by people. By the conversations we have, the support we offer, the way we welcome others, and the way we show up for each other during both the good seasons and the difficult ones.

While some people thrive in change, others may find uncertainty more challenging. Everyone experiences periods of transition differently, and that is completely okay.

Support is available. Employees and their immediate family members have access to confidential support services through Converge International's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). There are also a number of local community groups, health providers and government support services available across our region for anyone who may need additional support or simply someone to talk to.

Remember: sometimes the most important thing we can do is simply check in on each other.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Tieri News.

Michelle

Human Resource Manager, Oaky Creek Coal



MESSAGE FROM Bernie Lambley

Oaky Creek Coal

Hello Tieri - it's great to be back...again!
For those who don't know me, I'm Bernie
Lambley, Site Senior Executive (SSE) and
Operations Manager at Oaky Creek Coal (OCC).

I've been part of the fabric of Tieri since the 80s when my father came to work at the OCC's open cut mine before the first coal had been extracted. I was lucky enough to start at the newly built Tieri State School as a Year 5 student on its opening day!

Since then, I have been away and come back to OCC and Tieri a number of times and have had the privilege of working in all three of its operations (even though the open cut was only for three months, I still claim it!). I have been underground mining for my entire career in various places in Australia and overseas, but OCC and Tieri have always held a special place in my heart. When I was offered the opportunity to come back and be part of this unique period in OCC's history, as we work towards the final days of coal production, I knew I wanted to be part of it.

Oaky North has been critical to the success of Glencore and I'm looking forward to working with each of you in its final years. Without you, the mine wouldn't have achieved all that it has accomplished over the decades.

Over the next couple of months, we will be communicating our key priorities and initiatives for the business. For now, I want to share two key principles that I hold close to my heart and drive my thinking.

First and foremost: **ensuring that our people are safely returned to their homes and loved ones at the end of every shift.** Safety has always been OCC's number one priority, and it will continue to be so going forward. Any success we pursue needs to be tempered by the requirement to do so safely.

Secondly, **the importance of community**, especially in a small rural town like Tieri. I had the pleasure of attending the Anzac Day memorial march organised by Al Barry and his team. It reminded me of how truly special Tieri is. People are the heart of the town, and the same sense of community that was alive in the days when we only had dirt roads, is still as strong as ever.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months and to sharing the plans for OCC. But please don't feel the need to wait until then to say hello, ask a question or share some information. I'll be based in Tieri - about 150m from where I lived as a 10-year-old - so you'll see me around the traps, ready for a chat any time.

Bernie



Bernie, on the right

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COMMUNITY EVENTS



22ND MARCH:

Par-Tee for Frank

On 21st of March, the town came together once more for the Par-Tee for Frank 2026, a community fundraising event created to bring people together to support Frank and his family.

The day featured raffles, golf, rides, face painting, balloon twisting, a Photo Booth, food, prizes, live entertainment and plenty of opportunities for the community to come together and show their support.

Local businesses, families, friends and community members all played a part in helping make the event such a success. From the amazing sponsors and vendors, to every single person who attended, donated, volunteered or promoted the event - every contribution mattered, and helped make the day the success that it was.

One of the highlights was seeing the overwhelming turnout from the community and the genuine kindness shown by everyone involved. Guests enjoyed a fun and welcoming atmosphere while helping raise over \$7,000 for Frank's family, who generously decided to pay the money forward to someone in need.

A huge thank you to SamYam Photobooth, Moranbah Balloons, AMP Amusements, Mr Whippy, Firthy's Floss Fiesta and the band 'Is What It Is' for helping make the day so memorable.



“Par-Tee for Frank 2026 was more than just a fundraiser - it was a reminder of how powerful a community can be when people come together to support one another. The event showcased compassion, generosity and the incredible support network surrounding Frank and his family, creating yet another day that will be remembered by everyone involved.” says Jodie McKenzie.



4TH APRIL:

Sunflower Festival Street Parader

This year, the Central Highlands Sunflower Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary. The annual, week-long festivities are a key highlight in Emerald's events calendar as they recognise the region's past as a major sunflower producer.

Hundreds of people came together to enjoy a variety of events whilst raising money for local charities. The program featured the well-known Queen and Princess Quest, High Tea, Speech Night, free Family Fun Day, Races, Rodeo, the ever-popular 'Music n Mingle' event that supports local musicians, and the Easter Street Parade.

Around 30 floats participated in the parade, including Tieri's own family day care, Little Love Care ([page 22](#)).

"Participating in the parade was so much fun and a really unique and special experience for the children. They did an amazing job creating their own beautiful sunflowers and decorating our float," shares Amy Frost, Educator at Little Love Care.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with other Enhance Family Day Care educators and the children they look after. A massive shout out to Amy Summerville for inviting us all to be part of such a special day. We're all excited to continue being involved and hope to participate again next year."



Farewell Ash

Oaky Creek Coal bid adieu to Ashley Edler, who many of you would know through her involvement in organising and supporting countless community events over the years.

Ash contributed enormously behind the scenes to help bring people together and create opportunities for connection across our community.

"On behalf of Oaky Creek, we sincerely thank Ash for everything she has contributed and wish her all the very best for the future — she will certainly be missed!"

shared Michelle Cody, HR Manager.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



25 APRIL:

ANZAC Day

"A big thank you to those who helped coordinate, and to everyone that turned up to honour the fallen, especially to the school kids," said Allan Barry. "For me, it's all about helping them understand and remember, so we don't forget."

"The children at Tieri Daycare proudly participated in the ANZAC Day march alongside the community. They not only marched but also proudly laid a wreath that they had carefully made themselves," says Danielle Coveney, Director of Tieri Daycare.





21ST MAY:

TSS Under 8s Day

Under 8s' Day was a celebration of early childhood and the important role that play-based learning has in supporting young children's development. The event aimed to recognise the learning, growth and wellbeing of students in the early years, while also strengthening connections between families, the school and early learning providers.

"Under 8s' Day is an annual celebration we are proud to support, as it aligns closely with our commitment to early intervention, positive relationships and giving children a strong start to their schooling journey," explains Susan Spackman, Principal at TSS. *"It also provides a valuable opportunity to work alongside families and local early childhood partners."*

Students under eight years of age took part in a variety of hands-on, age-appropriate activities designed to encourage creativity, cooperation and enjoyment. Older students supported the day by helping with activities and being positive role models, and families were warmly invited to attend and share the morning with their children, helping to strengthen the home-school connection. Glencore, the local Ambulance, Police, and Fire Brigade were also in attendance, along with representatives from Central Highlands Regional Council.

The young children particularly enjoyed the interactive, play-based experiences that allowed them to explore, create and learn alongside their peers. Activities that encouraged teamwork, movement and imagination were especially popular. For Bryce, *"the best part of the day was face painting!"* and fellow little learner, Lorelai, was *"most proud of my drawing."*

"One standout aspect of the day was seeing students from different year levels learning and playing together. The sense of excitement and engagement across the school highlighted the success of the event and the positive relationships within our community," reflects Susan.

Events like Under 8s' Day help build strong relationships between students, families and staff. They also highlight the importance of early learning and wellbeing, while fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

The overall response to the event was extremely positive, with students, families and staff enjoying the relaxed, inclusive atmosphere and the opportunity to celebrate our youngest learners together.

"We hope the students took away a sense of joy, confidence and belonging, as well as positive memories of learning through play and being celebrated as an important part of our school community," says Susan.

Families are encouraged to keep an eye on the school newsletter and communications for upcoming celebrations, assemblies and community events happening throughout the term.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

12-13TH JUNE:

Tieri Pro-Am

The 2026 Tieri Golf Pro-Am was held over two days, starting on Friday 12th June, and finishing on Saturday 13th June. An additional Sponsors Day was held on the 11th June for those who generously supported the event.



“We are thrilled to announce that this year’s Pro-Am attracted an incredible 57 sponsors! Their outstanding support has truly surpassed expectations, and we can’t thank them enough for their generous backing. It helped to make the event the huge success that it was.”
says Patrick Freiberg, Secretary, at Tieri Golf Club.

A mixture of 38 professional players from near and as far afield as South Australia, Victoria and even the Northern Territory, and 72 amateurs competed this year, which is a huge turnout.

It was a Single Person Stableford event - where competitors played alone and scored points based on their actual strokes minus their handicap strokes - with multiple tee-off times in the morning and afternoon.



Players competed for an array of exciting prizes, including King’s Camping Fridges and JBL Bluetooth Speakers, Pellet Smokers, Mini Drones, Ninja Slushie Machines, Ninja Coffee Machines and Firepits. The prizes were awarded across various categories, including playing division, winner and runner-up titles, approach shots, longest drives, and overall performance.

There was a live band, food vans on-site for hungry players and fans to buy dinner, and even a clinic for school students to learn from professional golfers.

This is the 12th official PGA-sanctioned Pro-Am tournament that has been held at the Tieri Golf Club, quite an accomplishment for our small, but top, little town!

“Every year the Pro-Am creates a lively and enjoyable atmosphere filled with friendly competition, laughter, and excitement,” says Patrick.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for golf enthusiasts, amateurs, and aspiring pros to connect with professionals, share their passion for the game, and compete for prizes, all while having a great time and sharing a big smile.” ●



SAVE THE DATE



CLICK
FOR
DETAILS

27th June - 11th July:
School Holiday Activities
Tieri Library - click for details

25th July: “Pretty in Pink” charity gala

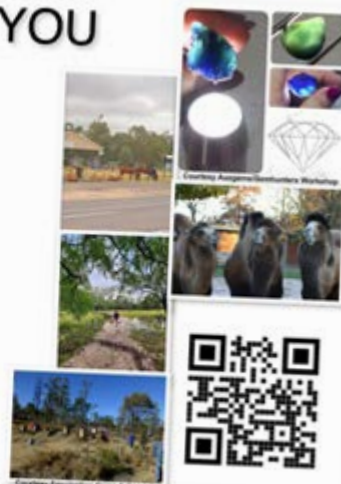
29th August: Wine tasting

5th December: Town Xmas Party

HOLIDAY FUN FOR YOU AND THE KIDS

at the Sapphire Gemfields, Central Queensland Highlands

Fossicking parks and tagalong tours
Underground sapphire mine tour
Loads of jewellers and retailers
Lapidary Club
Weekly markets Saturdays & Sundays
Four licensed venues, fine dining
Accommodation
Food and fuel supplies
Miners Common Museum
Pet friendly (mostly, so check first!)



Search for fun at sapphiregemfieldsdirectory.com





Igniting Dance Studio

Your name & role: Amber Scislowski – Studio Owner / Director

How long have you been operating: Igniting Dance Studio opened in 2026

Locations serviced: Tieri and surrounding Central Highlands communities

How can we follow you: Search for '[Igniting Dance Studio](#)' on Facebook, or [@ignitingdancestudio](#) on Instagram

Tell us about yourself and how you came up with the idea for Igniting Dance.

Igniting Dance Studio began as a small spark — a love of movement and a deep belief that dance can help young people grow into confident, resilient, and connected individuals.

My own journey with dance started in childhood, where I explored different styles simply for the joy of it. Some of my most special memories are learning old-time dances with my grandfather, Darby. They were moments filled with music, connection, and community that have stayed with me throughout my life.

As a mum of three in a wonderfully neurodiverse household, I've experienced firsthand how important it is for children to have safe, supportive spaces where they can be themselves.

Combined with my background in early childhood education and my experiences as a dance mum, I saw the need for a studio in Tieri that focuses on inclusivity, connection, and confidence — not pressure or competition. Igniting Dance Studio was created to be that space.

Where is the studio located?

We are based at the Tieri Civic Centre.

When did you open?

We officially opened in early 2026.

What do you hope the studio will bring to the town and people of Tieri?

We hope to bring connection, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging to the community.

In a small town like Tieri, community is everything and our studio is an extension of that. We want every child to feel seen, valued, and supported, while giving families a place to come together, build friendships, and share meaningful experiences.

Who is on your team?

I lead the studio as Director, alongside my daughter Sophia. She teaches the majority of our classes and brings incredible energy, skill, and connection to our dancers. We are also supported by dedicated family members and volunteers from the community who help bring everything together.

What classes do you offer?

We offer a range of classes designed to suit all ages and abilities:

- **Ballet** – a classical style focusing on technique, posture, and grace.
- **Jazz** – energetic and fun, combining technique with upbeat movement and performance style.
- **Contemporary** – expressive and emotional, blending technique with storytelling through movement.
- **Acro** – a mix of dance and acrobatics, teaching strength, flexibility, and safe tumbling skills.
- **Preschool Dance** – creative, playful classes introducing rhythm, movement, and confidence in a fun environment.
- **Adult Classes** – welcoming, supportive classes designed for fitness, fun, and connection.





What age ranges do you cater for?

We cater for movers and shakers from 1-year-old through to adults.

How much are the classes?

Individual classes range from approximately \$13 – \$20, depending on the class length and style. Discounts are available for multiple class passes.

Do you have to be a member?

Yes, all students need to complete an enrolment process which includes a one-off registration fee. That fee covers admin, insurance, music licensing, and a studio shirt.

When do the classes run?

Classes run throughout the week during school terms, with a full timetable available through our enrolment system and social media pages.

Who teaches the classes?

Sophia and I both teach the classes, with a strong focus on creating a positive, supportive, and engaging learning environment.

What's your background in dance?

While my early experience in dance was recreational, my deeper involvement came through years as a dance mum, supporting my children through their own dance journeys.

I've also built a career in early childhood education, which strongly influences my teaching philosophy — focusing on development, inclusion, and emotional wellbeing.

I am currently completing my Dance Teaching Skill Set to continue expanding my knowledge in safe dance practices and effective teaching methods.

What's a common misconception about dancing?

That dance is only for naturally talented or flexible people, or that it must be competitive.

At Igniting Dance Studio, we believe dance is for everyone! It's about expression, confidence, and joy, not perfection.



What's your favourite style of dance?

I love all styles, but I have a soft spot for expressive styles like contemporary that allow dancers to tell a story and connect emotionally through movement.

What are your top tips for someone with two left feet?

Start anyway! Confidence comes with practice. Focus on enjoying the music, not getting everything perfect. And remember: everyone starts somewhere.

How can people contact you?

You can email us at admin@ignitingdancestudio.com or reach out via our [Facebook page](#).

To wrap it up...

Igniting Dance Studio is more than just a dance school. It's a place where children and families can feel safe, supported, and connected.

We're here to build confidence, create memories, and bring people together through the joy of dance. Whether your child (or you!) dreams of performing on stage, or simply wants to move and have fun, there is a place for them here and we look forward to welcoming you. ●

 Timetable  IGNITE. DANCE. SHINE.					
TIME	TUESDAY	TIME	WEDNESDAY	TIME	THURSDAY
9:00-9:30AM		9:00-9:30AM		9:00-9:30AM	
9:30-10:00AM	SPARKLE STEPS 1.5-4 YEARS	9:30-10:00AM	SPARKLE STEPS 1.5-4 YEARS	9:30-10:00AM	
10:00-10:30AM	FLICKERING FLAMES 4-5 YEARS (KIDNEY AGE)	10:00-10:30AM		10:00-10:30AM	
1:00-1:30PM	RIISING FLAMES AERO 5-7 YEARS	1:00-1:30PM	SHINING FLAMES BALLET 7+ YEARS	1:00-1:30PM	RIISING FLAMES BALLET 5-7 YEARS
2:30PM-4:00PM	EMERGING FLAMES AERO 8-7 YEARS	2:45-4:30PM	SHINING FLAMES CONTEMPORARY 7+ YEARS	3:30-4:00PM	RIISING FLAMES CONTEMPORARY 5-7 YEARS
4:00-4:30PM	SHINING FLAMES AERO 7+ YEARS	4:30-5:15PM	SHINING FLAMES JAZZ 7+ YEARS	4:00-4:30PM	RIISING FLAMES JAZZ 5-7 YEARS
4:30-5:15PM	SHINING FLAMES CONTEMPORARY 8 YEARS+	5:15-5:45PM	RADIANT FLAMES JAZZ 2 10+ YEARS	4:30-5:00PM	EMERGING FLAMES BALLET 6-7 YEARS
5:15-6:00PM	RADIANT FLAMES AERO 8+ YEARS	5:45-6:15PM	RADIANT FLAMES JAZZ 10+ YEARS	5:00-5:30PM	EMERGING FLAMES CONTEMPORARY 6-7 YEARS
				5:30-6:00PM	EMERGING FLAMES JAZZ 6-7 YEARS
				6:30-7:30PM	





Mystical Creations

Your name & role:

Catherine Windsor, Founder and Potion Creator

How long have you been operating:

4 months

Locations serviced:

Tieri, but I can post all over Australia

How can we follow you:

Search for '[Mystical Creations](#)' on Facebook



Tell us about yourself and how Mystical Creations was born.

I'm Catherine, a childcare educator with a heart full of wonder and a deep love for sensory play. After years of watching children learn through the magic of hands-on experiences, I created Mystical Creations: a collection of sensory potion kits designed to spark imagination, curiosity, and joy for younger minds. There is nothing more rewarding than watching the faces of children as they mix and pour.

How did you come up with the idea?

Mystical Creations began in the most natural way — by simply watching children light up with wonder. At Tieri Daycare, and with my own granddaughters, I saw the pure delight that only sensory play, imagination, and a little bit of science can spark. Their curiosity, their joy, their messy hands and big ideas... that's where the magic started.

Then came the six-week school holidays. I was bored, restless, and itching to create — and when my creative mind switches on, there's no stopping it. I LOVE bringing ideas to life, especially when they help children explore STEM, imagination, and sensory learning in playful, hands-on ways.

So Mystical Creations was born: a place where potions bubble, colours swirl, and children get to be the scientists, storytellers, and inventors of their own little worlds.

How have things evolved since then?

I've been blown away by the beautiful feedback coming in. So many families have shared how much they appreciate that our potion kits are affordable, especially when larger companies are selling STEM and sensory activities at prices that put them out of reach for many.

What matters most to me is hearing how deeply engaged the children are — mixing, pouring, imagining, creating their own scenarios.

Parents and educators have also told me that these kits aren't just fun; they're a calming, regulating sensory tool that helps children slow down, focus, and feel grounded.

What do you hope your creations will bring to the community?

I hope my creations encourage children to step outside, explore, and reconnect with the kind of play that truly fills their cup. Yes, it can be messy — but that's the magic. Messy play invites curiosity, confidence, and creativity in ways that screens simply can't.

By offering hands-on, sensory-rich experiences, I want to help families rediscover the joy of real-world play: feeling textures, different smells, mixing colours, experimenting, imagining, and getting lost in the moment.

My goal is to bring to the community a wealth of resources that inspire children to look up from devices and dive back into nature, connection, and open-ended fun.

If my creations can spark even a little more outdoor adventure, a little more imagination, and a lot more joyful mess, then I've done what I set out to do.

What type of mystical creations do you offer?

I offer a range of magical, hands-on sensory kits designed for all children — from the dreamers and wish-makers, to the little scientists and adventurers.

My creations include themes like Fairy Dreams, Make a Wish, and Friendship, right through to Mine Crew and Volcano kits for kids who love digging, building, and exploring big reactions.

I've also recently branched into Party Favour Boxes, bringing a little pocket of magic to birthdays and celebrations. They're simple, affordable, and designed to make every child feel special.

What ingredients do you use?

All of my ingredients are child-friendly, safe, and gentle on the environment. I keep things simple, natural, and suitable for little hands so families can enjoy messy, hands-on play without worry. Each kit comes with its own instruction card, making it easy for children to explore.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Where do you get your inspiration from?

Most of my inspiration comes from right here in our local community. Working with the children at Tieri Daycare is a blessing. Their curiosity, their play, and their interests spark so many of my ideas. That's exactly where the Mine Crew theme came from, our local community, our Dads and Grandads. I simply follow the children's lead and turn their excitement into something magical.

Do you follow any health, safety or sustainability guidelines or procedures?

Firstly, we only use child-friendly ingredients, choosing safe, skin-friendly materials wherever possible and avoiding anything harsh or harmful...to either the children or the environment.

While our potion kits encourage imagination, sensory exploration, and child-led play, we also follow simple but important health, safety, and sustainability guidelines to keep every experience positive. For example:

- Adult supervision is required at all times.
- These kits are designed for shared play and guided exploration.
- All ingredients are strictly for play. They must not be eaten or drunk under any circumstances.

Clear safety notes are included in every kit. Each pack explains how to use the ingredients safely and reminds adults to supervise.

How much are your creations?

Our potion kits are \$35 each, and every single kit is completely unique — no two are ever the same. Each one is filled with its own mix of treasures to spark curiosity, imagination, and that sense of "what will I discover next?!".

I also offer a Refill Pack for \$20, created for pure convenience. These packs are the perfect way to keep the fun, fizz, and wonder going long after your first kit, so the magic never has to end.

Our Party Favour Boxes start from \$10 each, depending on any special touches you'd like added. Each box includes magic dust, magic potion, a little pipette for spell-making and heaps of fun. All boxed up beautifully for just \$10. A magical keepsake kids will actually love and enjoy long after the party is over.



You can also purchase extra potions and equipment supplies to make your child's birthday party truly magical. DM anytime to arrange your order. I'm always happy to work together to make your child's party extra special.

Do you deliver?

I sure do. Tieri locals can enjoy easy local pickup, or I can deliver nationwide for your convenience. For the cost of postage, I can send your magical goodies anywhere in Australia, providing the perfect gift for little ones near or far.

To add an extra sprinkle of wonder, I can also include a personalised note in the shape of a tiny scroll — a sweet keepsake.

What's your best seller so far?

The Mine Crew Kit and The Fairy Wish Creation.

What's the most elaborate creation you've made?

I've made a few big ones, but the most elaborate ones to date are:

- **The Mine Crew Kit** — a full sensory adventure inspired by the mining world, packed with themed treasures and storytelling elements.
- **The Easter Bunny Potion Kit** — bursting with colour, fizz, and hidden surprises from the Bunny himself.
- **The Fairy Wish Creation** — delicate, whimsical, and filled with tiny treasures for children who love a bit of sparkle and wonder.
- **The Volcano Kit** — dramatic, explosive, and designed for kids who love big reactions and sensory science.

What makes a creation 'mystical'?

When we pause to see the world through a child's eyes, every moment becomes an opportunity to create something mystical.

How can people buy one of your creations?

Call or text me on 0417 622 801; email me at catherine.windsor@y7mail.com; or send me a DM on my [Mystical Creations Facebook page](#). I'm always happy to help you choose the perfect kit or party favour to suit your needs. ●





MEET THE LOCALS

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

In this edition, we meet...

**Tieri's new police officer,
Jeff Boddy...**

Jeff, how long have you lived in Tieri?

I have been in Tieri now for just two months.

What attracted you to the role/town?

I was previously working in Cairns City which is one of the busiest stations in the state. With changing shifts and constant overtime, it started to feel like I was always at work. I grew up in small country towns in NSW and I wanted to give my kids a chance to spend some time in the country to see what it's like. I also get to spend more time with them this way.

You recently took on the role of town's Senior Constable. What does that involve?

I am the first port of call for incidents that happen in Tieri. I also make patrols and keep the peace inside the township.

How does police work here compare to police work in a major city?

The work is the same, the volume is slightly different. In Cairns City the majority of my day was taken up with public drinking, fights, assaults, robberies and public nuisance. It is extremely busy; there is rarely time to rest and almost no time to actively patrol. In the city we are constantly responding, rather than actively looking. Here I can do a lot more proactive 'looking'. This helps to prevent problems before they eventuate, rather than only



responding after something has happened. For example, more 'looking' can help discourage opportunistic crimes, identify any issues early on, and provide faster intervention. It also gives me more opportunity to get out into the community, chat with the locals, and build strong relationships.

You haven't always been in the police force. You were in the Royal Australian Navy for 18 years. That's a significant chunk of your life. How did your time with the Navy shape you?

I joined the Navy at 17 before finishing High School. The Navy taught me self-discipline, respect, a strong work ethic, self-reliability and accountability, and how to be a professional in everything I do. The military gave me an excellent grounding, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking to challenge themselves.

You left the Navy to pursue a career in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), undertaking clearance operations in war-torn countries, past and present, including Iraq and Afghanistan. What do you recall most about that time?

Private contracting was a good step for me, because I left the military to work with ex-military people, so the transition was very smooth. Everyone was a professional and very good at what they do. It's not a job a lot of people know about, but right now there are people all over the world crawling around in minefields and battle fields finding, defusing, disarming and disposing of bombs, rockets, mines and anything else that can hurt or kill you. It's not a glamorous life, but it is extremely rewarding. Unfortunately, it's also a job where you can do everything right and still die. I made a lot of good friends and lost a lot of good friends as well, so unless you are comfortable with that it's probably not for you.

When did you decide you wanted to join the police force, and what prompted you to transition?

I had returned to Australia and was working in an office and hated it. I didn't want to return to private contracting or the military because I had my two boys; the Police felt like a good fit. I made the right decision and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the force.





MEET THE LOCALS

What's been the most important lesson you've learned from your time with the police?

There are three sides to every story and the truth is usually a mixture of them all. There are very few bad people out there, it's a lot of regular people making bad choices that we deal with most of the time.

What was your first impression of Tieri?

I really liked it. You have a very nice little town here, good facilities and well laid out.

If you could sum up Tieri in 3 words, what would they be?

So far I would say quiet, clean and relaxed.

Aside from our top little town, where's your favourite place in the Central Highlands to spend time?

This is my first time in the Central Highlands, so I haven't really had much chance to explore yet. I am open to suggestions for good camping spots though!

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Something is either true, or it isn't. How you choose to feel about it is up to you.

Quick-Fire Round...

How do you describe yourself? Loyal and reserved.

How would your friends and family describe you? Dedicated.

How do you spend your time and with whom? I like to cook, do woodwork with hand tools, take photos and spend time with my family. I need to buy some golf clubs now though.

5 things you can't live without? Family, friends, food, fun. That's it...everything else is just stuff.

Dead or alive, who would be your ideal dinner guests? Kaido, Stephan, Knut, Trevor and John, mates who left for Valhalla too soon.

If you could have anyone else's job, whose would it be and why? Mine. Every job I have had has helped shape me into the person I am. I enjoy my life and enjoy my job so why do anything else? ●



Tieri's new child and family health nurse, Christine Petersen...

Christine - or do you prefer Chris? - you recently moved to Tieri to take on the role of child and family health nurse. Where were you before and what were you doing?

I prefer Chris. We moved from Bundaberg to Clermont in 2025 and I was working in Emerald. The lovely Sue Hall (or 'Nurse Sue' as I know she was affectionately called) approached me and asked me to consider taking on the role here in Tieri. As we now live in Middelmount, it was a great fit for me.



What attracted you to the role and the town?

I was very taken with working in a smaller community where I can get to know the families and be a part of the community.

What has been your first impression of the town so far?

I grew up in the mining towns of Moura and Moranbah so I am familiar with the small town feel. I find Tieri to be a lovely community, very friendly and welcoming.

What inspired you to become a nurse?

I was one of those little girls who always wanted to grow up and be a nurse. My Pop was in hospital a lot when I was young and I loved sitting and talking to all the nurses.

What prompted you to specialise in child and family health?

I have been nursing for 36 years and have always predominantly worked with children and families. I started in Paediatrics as soon as I finished my training, then I did midwifery. I later returned to Paediatrics and have been a child health nurse for the past 23 years. I have also been an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant for 15 years.

Where did you complete your training?

I started in 1989 and completed my general nursing and midwifery training in Bundaberg. I was in the last hospital-based nurses training program there. Registered nurses are now trained in universities.

What does your work here involve?

Supporting families in their parenting journey; attending to developmental checks for little ones from birth to four-years-old; supporting feeding, sleep and everything in between. A big part of my work is ensuring parents are also supported to look after themselves.



What are you most enjoying about working with the local community?

The families of Tieri and Capella have been very welcoming and it has been a very easy transition for me.

What do you think makes a great child and family health nurse?

I believe a great child and family health nurse needs to be supportive, easy to talk to, knowledgeable, and someone you can trust.

What do you hope patients feel when they leave your care?

That they feel heard, valued and safe, and that I have made their day a little better.

What do you find most rewarding about your work?

It is a real privilege to be a part of a family's journey, whether that be good or bad, and that the families I see have a safe place to come and be supported.

It must come with its challenges too; what's the most prominent one you face?

I think the hardest thing is that a lot of mums judge themselves too harshly. They can often feel very lonely and have to be "perfect". I want them to know they are doing an amazing job.

How has the role of a child and family health nurse changed over the years, especially with the advancements in technology?

Fundamentally the pressure put on families with the increased cost of living, relentless advertising, and so much information online can make parenting very difficult. It isn't just raising our children we have to worry about, it is often isolation, expectations and social media that can make us feel like we are failing.



They say 'it takes a village to raise a child' and Tieri is known as being a wonderful place to raise a family. What role do you believe a community like ours plays in collectively raising the next generation?

I believe it is remembering that, in a small town like Tieri, we all bring something unique and special that we can share with the children in the community.

What's the most common piece of advice you find yourself giving to new parents?

Be kind to yourself! The first six to eight weeks are all about survival. It's a time for you to get to know your baby and a time for your baby to get to know you, as well as the outside world and how their body even works. That's a lot, so be kind to yourself.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Don't put off your happiness waiting for things to happen; enjoy every day for what it is.

What do you think is special about rural/small-town child and family healthcare?

Getting to know the families in the area and watching little ones grow up and go through life's rich phases.

Quick-Fire Round...

How do you describe yourself? Friendly, loving and kind.

How would your friends and family describe you? I'd like to think the same as me: friendly, loving and kind.

How do you spend your time and with whom?

I spend my time with my family – my husband, my two children and son-in-law, and the apple of my eye, my three-year-old granddaughter, and my extended family.

5 things you can't live without? My family, good food, my bed, my pets, my phone – unfortunately it is my 'brain' that remembers everything for me.

Dead or alive, who would be your ideal dinner guests? My family including all the extended family – we have a great time together.

If you could have anyone else's job, whose would it be and why? Honestly I can't think of anything that I would rather be doing – I love what I do. ●



INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

GET YOUR SmartyGrant Application In



Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) and Glencore Coal Assets Australia (GCAA) have funding to support community groups, activities, programs and events that make a positive contribution to our community, and they want to hear from you!

At the time of writing, they had just approved seven grants for local organisations across Tieri and Capella, totalling **over \$34,000!**

If your organisation has an idea for a project or initiative that could benefit the local community, OCC is urging you to apply for one of their 2026 grants.

Tieri News spoke to Kate French, Senior Environment and Community Advisor at OCC, to dispel some myths and alleviate any doubts about the grant application process.

Time Misconception

"One of the biggest barriers to people applying for a grant is a lack of time, which is why we use the SmartyGrant platform," reveals Kate.

"Previous applicants have told us how quick, easy and intuitive the application process is; I'd hate to think a misconception was stopping organisations from applying."

Kate is keen to share a tip that can really help to save time: *"know your numbers"*. If you understand what your idea will cost, how much funding you are applying for and, if applicable, how much you are getting from elsewhere, you're well on your way to completing the application.

Eligibility Concerns

Another barrier to community organisations applying for a grant is uncertainty about their eligibility. Kate has a remedy for that, too. *"Every grant has information to help groups determine if their project or idea is eligible, and a list of what won't be accepted."*

Simply visit the [Glencore SmartyGrants webpage](#), choose the grant you want to apply for, click on 'Preview the Form' and a wealth of information will help guide you.

"And if that doesn't reassure you of your eligibility, just give the Environment & Community team a call, or send me an email," asserts Kate. *"We're here to help make it as easy as possible for you to apply, so don't be afraid to ask for assistance with your application!"*

If at first you don't succeed...

Kate's final piece of advice is to not give up. *"Just because your application didn't get approved the first time, it doesn't mean you should discount it altogether. Make sure you seek feedback to understand why it was unsuccessful and then, if applicable, you can make any necessary adjustments and reapply for the next round."*

For more information, guidelines, and to apply for any of the grants available, visit glencore.smartygrants.com.au or click the button (right).

For queries about deadlines, questions in the form, or assistance with your application, please contact the Environment & Community team on (07) 4984 7245 during business hours, or email Kate.French@Glencore.com.au or occenvironment@glencore.com.au. ●

Click For
More
Information

Glencore and OCC Grants AVAILABLE IN 2026

Oaky Creek Coal Local Community Investment Grants Program

- Up to \$10,000 per community organisation, per grant
- Round 2 NOW OPEN - closes 31 August, 2026
- Round 3 opens 1 September - closes 14 December, 2026

Click Here
To Apply

Oaky Creek Coal Local Community & Family Events Grants

- Up to \$10,000 per event, per grant
- Open all year - closes 14 December, 2026

Click Here
To Apply

Glencore QLD Junior Sports Development Program

- Up to \$7,500 per community organisation, per grant
- Round 2 opens 1 August, 2026, closes 31 August, 2026

Click For
More Info





TIERI DAYCARE Awarded SmartyGrant

Tieri Daycare was extremely fortunate to be a successful recipient of a \$10,000 Glencore SmartyGrant.

"The grant funding has been used in many valuable ways across our service, helping us purchase much needed resources that directly benefit the children and their learning environments," says Danielle Coveney, Director of Tieri Daycare.

One such item that had been on Danielle's wish list for some time was outdoor seating for the children.

"We have an outdoor area where the children enjoy craft activities and morning tea, and the new seating has provided more space and created a welcoming, comfortable area for the children to sit, interact and socialise. It's become a favourite space for the children to sit and enjoy a snack together or happily create wonderful artwork."

Speaking of artwork, the children took part in the Capella Show this year where they entered an artwork banner inspired by one of the daycare children, Gracie, who brought in a bird's nest she had found in her backyard.

"This sparked a great deal of interest among the children so we began exploring butterflies, flowers, bees, and grubs. Anything that flew, crawled, or wiggled quickly captured their curiosity, and the children were fully engaged in the learning experience," Danielle shares.

With the money from the SmartyGrant, the daycare was also able to purchase colourful water play resources, including buckets, jugs and funnels. These have been a huge hit with the children, who love mixing and pouring.

"Water play has been fantastic for developing hand-eye coordination and has also opened up many opportunities for communication and cooperative play as the children work together," explains Danielle.

Inside the centre, the team has purchased bright new mats and room dividers, making the indoor play areas more inviting, comfortable and creative.

With the remaining funds, Danielle has arranged for a much-needed shade sail to be installed outside. This will provide additional sun protection for our outdoor area, allowing the children to enjoy outdoor play more safely and comfortably.

Supporting the community

"We would like to sincerely thank Glencore and Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) for their generous support. The SmartyGrant application process is very easy and the team at OCC were more than happy to assist with any questions along the way, which made the experience even more positive."

Danielle is also quick to thank OCC for the delicious Easter Bunnies they kindly purchased and delivered to the daycare. *"They were very much enjoyed by the children and the staff as well! The children LOVED making the OCC team a thank you card for their yummy chocolate treats."*

"Thank you to Glencore for their generosity and continued support of our community and our little centre. Your contribution has made a meaningful contribution and difference and we are truly grateful." ●



Glencore Coal Australia also delivers a Community Investment program, which supports activities and programs that make a positive contribution to the communities in which we operate, including Central Queensland.

They have several long-term partners who provide support services throughout Queensland, including CQ Rescue, Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), and Royal Far West.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to receive funding from Glencore Coal's Community Investment program, the application must:

- Be from a not-for-profit, incorporated organisation operating a separate, auditable organisational bank account
- Demonstrate the organisation's ability to manage the proposed project/activity in a professional manner
- Address a substantiated need in the Tieri community
- Demonstrate how the initiative will directly benefit the local community
- Demonstrate financial sustainability - i.e. not become reliant on ongoing funding from Glencore
- Have clearly defined outputs, timeframes and budgets
- Be received at least eight weeks prior to the implementation of planned project/activity.





Local Voices: Key insights



Thank you to those who shared feedback in the November - December 2025 Pulse Local Voices survey!

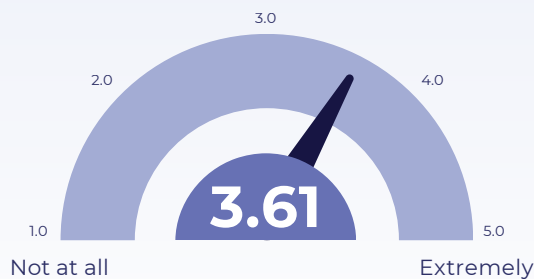
Glencore Oaky Creek Coal have engaged Voconiq to conduct the Local Voices program, giving community members an opportunity to share insights into key priorities and concerns related to Oaky Creek Coal.

This report provides a snapshot of the results from the November - December 2025 Pulse Local Voices survey. All responses are collated by Voconiq in a confidential manner, and no personal information is shared with Glencore Oaky Creek Coal.

Overall trust & acceptance of Oaky Creek Coal

The community rated their overall trust and acceptance of Oaky Creek Coal with scores of **3.61 and 4.01 out of 5**, respectively. These scores are slightly higher than the 2024 survey results of 3.50 and 3.90 out of 5, respectively.

Trust the company to act responsibly



How much do you accept Glencore in your community?



Oaky Creek Coal's support and culture



74% agreed that Oaky Creek Coal provides support that reflects community needs, while **20%** were neutral or unsure.



80% believed that Oaky Creek Coal provides adequate support for local businesses in the community, while **13%** were neutral or unsure.



67% agreed the Oaky Creek Coal's culture reflects the way it presents itself publicly, **22%** were neutral or unsure.

Communication with the Oaky Creek Coal



78% reported feeling respected when engaging with Oaky Creek Coal representatives, **16%** were neutral or unsure.



70% agreed Oaky Creek Coal effectively communicates issues that may impact the community; **20%** were neutral or unsure.



77% agreed that Oaky Creek Coal's communication is clear and easy to understand, **17%** were neutral or unsure.



67% can easily find information from Oaky Creek Coal when needed, **26%** were neutral or unsure.

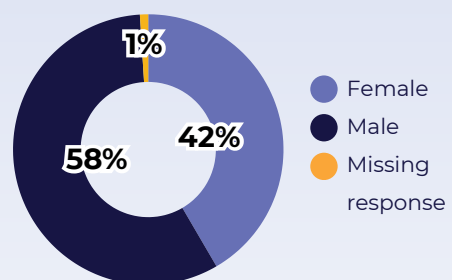
AT A GLANCE



143

Completed surveys

Gender



10% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants

55% Currently working for Oaky Creek Coal

100% Live in Tieri

20% Have lived in the area more than 10 years



Local Voices: Key insights

Impacts and Benefits



Community Benefits

84% agreed that the community has financially benefited from the activities of Oaky Creek Coal, **13%** were neutral or unsure.



Future Prosperity

69% agreed that the activities of Oaky Creek Coal will support the region's future prosperity, **27%** were unsure or neutral.

Environment



Environmental Impacts

76% agreed that Oaky Creek Coal is positively contributing to protecting the local environment, **22%** were neutral or unsure.



Noise and Dust

76% felt Oaky Creek Coal's activities did not increase exposure to noise in the community, while **15%** were unsure or neutral. Likewise, **47%** believed the Oaky Creek Coal's activities did not increase dust levels, while **28%** were unsure or neutral.



Land Rehabilitation

71% believed that Oaky Creek Coal does a good job rehabilitating previously mined land, **26%** were neutral or unsure.

Regulation and Fairness



69% believed external regulations ensured Oaky Creek Coal does the right thing, **24%** were unsure or neutral.



69% felt that the community's internal policies and guidelines ensured they do the right thing, **23%** were neutral or unsure.



56% agreed that Oaky Creek Coal listens to and respects community opinions, **33%** were neutral or unsure.



74% agreed that Oaky Creek Coal follows through on its commitments to community, **18%** were neutral or unsure.

Next steps

The next Local Voices survey will be in 2026. Ongoing surveys are designed to track the most important things in your relationship with Oaky Creek Coal. These regular surveys also help us understand how you feel about various focus topics over time.

If you have already registered to participate, an invitation to the next survey will automatically be sent to your email. If you have not yet registered to be involved in this Local Voices project, register today, it's not too late to join!

voconiqlocalvoices.com/glencore-coal

Rewards



\$6,970

Donations unlocked for local community groups since 2020

Each survey completed in 2025 helped your local community by unlocking donations to the following groups.

November 2025 Rewards Groups

- Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service
- Central Highlands Wildlife Carers Inc.
- Tieri Sharks Swimming Club
- Tieri Possums Playgroup
- Tieri Family Unit & Child Health Centre
- Tieri State School P&C
- Capella Tieri Middlemount Community Support Network Inc

Nominate a local community group to be part of the Voconiq Local Voices rewards program.

Find out more under Community Rewards at voconiqlocalvoices.com/en/glencore-coal/tieri/

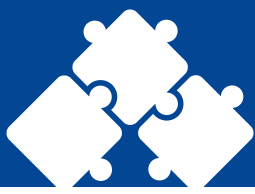
Prize winner

Congratulations to Helen Daly who was the winner of the \$400 BCF voucher.



Next survey will be in 2026.

REGISTER NOW
Your voice is important!



Over the past three months, CTM LINKS Tieri has continued to actively support, engage and connect the community of Tieri through a range of programs, initiatives and partnerships.

"It has been a busy and rewarding period, with strong community involvement and collaboration at the heart of everything we do," says Kath Hema, Community Development Officer.

Here's a taster of what they've been up to...

Tieri Youth Space – Connection, Energy & Belonging

Tieri Youth Space continues to thrive as a vibrant and welcoming space for young people aged 10 – 17 years. Running every Wednesday from 2:30 – 5:30pm during the school term, the program attracts approximately 20 young people each week.

Sessions begin with a shared round-table afternoon tea, providing a relaxed and supportive environment where young people can connect and engage in meaningful conversations about topics relevant to them. The space encourages self-expression in ways that feel natural to each individual, creating a safe and inclusive environment built on trust and respect.

Youth-led choice remains central to the program, with participants selecting their own music and activities. Popular favourites include volleyball, tug-o-war, tiggy, basketball, karaoke, Twister, dress-ups and the much-loved billy carts that were kindly donated. The energy is always high, with plenty of laughter, movement and connection.

The young people who attend consistently demonstrate kindness, respect and appreciation, making Youth Space a truly rewarding environment for all involved.

"This initiative continues to be made possible thanks to the incredible support of our community and partners," says Kath. *"We extend our sincere thanks to UnitingCare Family Support Worker Karen Dawson, for her ongoing collaboration and trusted presence within the program; Barbara-Lee and Helen for their generous donations of afternoon tea supplies; Central Highlands Mining Services and DBS for sponsoring Youth Space afternoon teas for the next two school terms; and Oaky Creek Coal for supporting the sustainability of Youth Space through grant funding for essential assets."*

"We also acknowledge Oaky Creek Coal for their continued support of the Tieri Youth Engagement Initiative through the delivery of the quarterly Tieri News by local youth." ●



Community Support Initiatives

The recent CTM LINKS 'Share the Dignity' donation drive was a tremendous success, with the Tieri community generously donating over 150 items to support the reduction of period poverty.

"We sincerely thank Tieri Foodworks, particularly Jason and staff, for hosting the donation boxes and for their ongoing support of community initiatives."

The **Baby-2-Baby** Circular Community Project also continues to provide meaningful support to families across the Central Highlands. Through generous community donations, CTM LINKS has been able to supply quality baby goods to those in need.

In addition, they continue to support the **Baby Give Back – Early Years Clothing Program**, a Queensland charity dedicated to giving children an equal start in life. *"We encourage community members to reach out if they know a family who may benefit from support packs for children aged newborn to six years old."*



Community Events & Youth Leadership

CTM LINKS was proud to participate in this year's MEU Oaky North Lodge May Day Picnic. This event provided a fantastic opportunity for our Youth Leadership Group to step forward and contribute to the community.

"A big thank you to Kim, Evie, Khloe and Peyton for their outstanding efforts at the face painting stall, and to Braxton for assisting with event set-up. Your enthusiasm and commitment were a credit to you."

"We also extend our appreciation to Karen Dawson (UnitingCare Intensive Family Support) for her continued collaboration across youth programs."

CTM LINKS was also excited to once again participate in the Tieri State School Under 8's Day ([page 7](#)) for the sixth consecutive year. This year, they proudly collaborated with UnitingCare Intensive Family Support to deliver activities including face painting, Giant Connect 4, Giant Jenga and giant dominoes.

"We thank Capella State High School for supporting students to engage in these valuable community experiences, and acknowledge Kim, Evie, Khloe, Peyton and Braxton for their involvement," says Kath.



If you would like to volunteer with CTM LINKS or discuss how they can support you, please phone Kath on 0491 276 263, email tieri@ctmlinks.com.au, or see the team at 26 Talagai Avenue. ●



Supporting Young People Through Opportunity

CTM LINKS was pleased to support Capella State High School Year 10 Work Experience students for the third consecutive year.

"Tyler and Toby showed great enthusiasm, willingness to learn and valuable contributions throughout the week as they took part in activities including the delivery of Tieri News, supporting Youth Space, general maintenance and community tasks," praises Kath.

A big shout out to Mitch and Lily Wilson for the generous use of their trailer, enabling multiple dump runs, and to Troy Stallman for additional support.

A Supporting Hand in the Community

CTM LINKS continues to serve the community as a practical, supportive and trusted presence. One way to understand their role is through the image of a supporting hand — each finger representing a key area of service:

- **Emergency Financial Relief** – providing essential support including food and fuel vouchers
- **Community Support** – practical assistance such as printing, online access, applications and referrals
- **Community Engagement** – creating opportunities for connection through events and programs
- **Referral Pathways** – connecting individuals and families to the right services and supports
- **Community Development** – strengthening the community through partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Established in 1987, CTM LINKS continues to support the communities of Capella, Tieri and Middlemount through connection, collaboration and care. Their focus remains on strengthening social cohesion, acting as a conduit to services and networks, and delivering meaningful programs that respond to community needs.

“

We are proud to be recognised as a trusted source of information, support and connection within our communities.

Kath - CTM Links



LITTLE LOVE CARE Opens Its Doors



Amy, congratulations! How does it feel to be fulfilling a life-long dream?

It feels so surreal and incredibly special. Caring for children has always been my passion, and creating a space that feels warm, safe, and full of love for little ones has been a dream of mine for such a long time. To now see that dream come to life and watch children thrive here every day is something I'm so grateful for.

Take us through day one, when the first children stepped into your care?

The first day was such a mix of excitement and nerves. I remember making sure every little detail was perfect and feeling so excited when the children walked through the door. Very quickly, the space filled with laughter, little footsteps, and smiles, and it instantly felt like everything was exactly how it was meant to be. The children all settled in so beautifully, which made the day feel even more special.

What's the response been like from the community?

The support from the community has been overwhelming in the best possible way. Families have been so kind and encouraging, and it's been so lovely seeing people connect with the vision I had for creating a calm, nurturing home-away-from-home environment. I continue to receive lots of interest and enquiries from families looking for care, which has been incredibly special and so rewarding.

And how about the kids, how have they reacted to their 'home away from home'?

The children have settled in so beautifully. Seeing them feel safe, comfortable, and excited to arrive each day has been the most rewarding feeling. They've really made the space their own, whether it's exploring outside, reading stories together, caring for our worm farm, dancing to music, or simply sharing little laughs with each other.

Most family day cares (FDC) are run out of the Educator's family home, but not in this case. Can you describe the setup?

Yes, our setup is a little unique. We operate from a dedicated home designed especially for family day care. The space has been thoughtfully established with the children in mind. It still has that warm, homely feeling of a family day care, but with a beautiful balance of indoor and outdoor learning spaces where children can safely explore, play, learn, and grow in an environment created just for them.

Take us on a tour of the space and what the children are able to experience...

Our space is very nature-inspired and play-based. We have areas for creative play, messy play, quiet rest, reading, music, sensory experiences, and outdoor exploration. The children love our outdoor area where they can climb, ride bikes, dig in the sandpit, care for our worms, garden, and enjoy lots of fresh air and sunshine. Inside, we focus on creating calm and inviting spaces where children feel relaxed and inspired to learn through play.

What does a typical day look like for you and the children?

Every day is a little different depending on the children's interests, but our days are usually filled with our morning walk to drop off the school children, outdoor play, music and movement, creative experiences, story time, sensory play, and lots of opportunities for connection and learning through everyday moments.

We also make time for the children to rest and recharge throughout the day, before ending our afternoons by picking up our friends from school and enjoying our walk home together.

I follow the children's interests closely and aim to create experiences that are meaningful, engaging, and fun for them. For example, we recently took part in the Sunflower Parade in Emerald, and the Emerald Show 2026. We created artwork to the theme of "Gems in the Highlands" especially designed for our stall. We were all so excited to create these beautiful pieces together and have them proudly displayed at the show. It was such a special opportunity for the children to share their creativity with the wider community and be involved in another wonderful local event.





How do you communicate with families about their child's progress and day?

Building strong relationships with families is so important to me. I use the Storypark platform to keep families updated throughout the day with photos, videos, and little stories about what their child has been enjoying and learning. I also love having open conversations at drop off and pick up times so families always feel connected and involved in their child's care.

What are your opening hours?

I am open Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

How many children are you able to look after?

Each day I care for up to four children under school age, along with three children for before and after school care.

One of the beautiful things about family day care is the smaller group sizes. This allows me to provide more individualised care, build strong relationships with each child, and create a calm and nurturing environment where every child feels seen, supported, and valued.

What's been your most rewarding moment so far?

There have been so many little moments that mean so much: watching children build confidence, form friendships, achieve milestones, and seeing their little personalities shine to name a few.

The cuddles I get from the children and seeing them run in, excited for the day ahead are moments that melts my heart.

Knowing families trust me with such an important part of their child's life is incredibly special and something I will never take for granted.

What's something that has surprised you about running your own day care?

How much love and emotion goes into it! You become such a big part of the children's lives and their families, and those connections are so meaningful. It's busy and sometimes challenging but so incredibly rewarding.

What do you have planned for the rest of 2026?

I'm excited to continue growing the space and creating even more beautiful experiences for the children. We have lots of seasonal activities, nature play, community outings, and special celebrations planned, and I'm looking forward to continuing to build a strong little community around the service.

What's one thing you wish more parents knew about family day care?

I wish more parents knew just how personal and nurturing family day care can be. The smaller group sizes allow children to build strong bonds, feel properly seen and supported, and learn in a calm environment that feels like home.

How can parents/carers find out more information and secure a spot for their child?

Families are always welcome to reach out through my Facebook or Instagram pages - @Little.Love.Care - or contact me directly on 0459 636 206.

I am currently fully booked, which I'm incredibly grateful for, however I do have a waiting list available for families who would like to join our little community in the future if a spot becomes available.

As places are limited, I can't guarantee that a position will become available quickly, but I'm always happy to chat with families, add them to the waiting list and answer any questions they may have about family day care. ●



Athletics Day AT TIERI STATE SCHOOL



On Thursday 28th May, Tieri State School (TSS) transformed into a sporting arena as students celebrated physical activity, teamwork and school spirit during Athletics Day.

The event aimed to give all students the opportunity to participate in a range of athletics activities, experience friendly competition and enjoy an inclusive environment where effort and participation are valued.

Families were invited to attend and support students from the sidelines, helping to create a positive and encouraging atmosphere. Community involvement added to the sense of pride and connection within the school.

“Athletics Day is an important part of our school sporting calendar and reflects our commitment to developing healthy, active lifestyles in students. It also provides opportunities for students to practice resilience, sportsmanship and perseverance in a supportive setting,” explains Susan Spackman, Principal of TSS.



Students participated in a range of track and field style activities that were modified to suit different age groups and abilities. All students were encouraged to take part, support one another and demonstrate positive sporting behaviour throughout the morning.

“The best part of the day was the running,” says Eddie, a student at TSS. “One thing we were most proud of was the racing,” agrees fellow student, Theo.

Novelty athletics activities were other highlights for many of the students, as they allowed children to challenge themselves, cheer on their peers and experience success in different ways.

“There was a really strong sense of house spirit and encouragement shown by students across all year levels,” reflects Susan. “The opportunity for students to step outside the classroom and showcase their physical skills was an important highlight of the event.”

Sporting events such as Athletics Day help build a strong sense of belonging and teamwork within the school. They promote physical wellbeing, confidence and resilience, while also strengthening partnerships between families and the school, as well as with the broader community.

“We hope students left the day with a sense of achievement, enjoyment and pride in themselves, as well as positive memories of participation, teamwork and fair play,” says Susan.

The Athletics Day event was generously supported by parent volunteers, including members of the P&C who assisted with the smooth running of the day by providing food for our staff and students. Their time and support were greatly appreciated by all. ●





Protect Yourself THIS WINTER

As the months get colder, it's a good time to think about the influenza vaccination. Every year, these viruses cause lost time at school, work, and even hospitalisation for vulnerable members of our community.



"Our immune system is like our personal internal army that fights against invading viruses and pathogens or germs," explains Yvette Watts, registered nurse at Tieri Medical Practice.

"Vaccination against the flu helps to preserve those soldiers so they are ready to fight against multiple assaults from the many thousands of viruses around us. Without vaccination, we are far more susceptible to contracting the virus and experiencing more severe symptoms - especially young people, the elderly, pregnant women and anyone who is immunocompromised."

In 2026, all Queenslanders aged six-months and over are eligible for a FREE influenza vaccination as part of the Queensland Immunisation Program.

In a welcome development, the Immunisation Program has extended its cover of FluMist for two- to five-year-olds to now include six- to 17-year-olds who find the injections overwhelming.

"Please feel free to ask the GP or myself for an update of your immunisation schedule; we hope to see you at the Practice soon," encourages Yvette. ●



HOW SOUND Is Your sleep?

Quality sleep is one of the cornerstones of health and longevity.

If you snore, or are feeling tired and unrefreshed after a night's sleep, it can really affect your daily life, so it's worth a check in with your GP to investigate the cause.

"Sleep disorders do more than make you sleepy. If left untreated, they can contribute to heart disease, diabetes, and other long-term health risks," Yvette explains.

Tieri Medical Practice offers local sleep studies, which are quick and easy to set up with results back to the GP in a matter of weeks.

"If you think you could benefit from better sleep, I encourage you to come and talk to us about the studies and how the results can help set you up for more restful and restorative sleep." ●



New Hair Salon NOW OPEN



30th May marked an exciting new chapter for our business and community as the hair salon in the town centre reopened as Aurora Beauty Parlour, thanks to local entrepreneur, Jodie McKenzie.

"What began as a dream has officially become a reality and we couldn't be more grateful for the support the community has given us throughout this journey."

"Of course, this expansion wouldn't be possible without the incredibly talented Kelly Tuckey, our new Senior Stylist, who we're excited to welcome to our Aurora family," said Jodie. "Kel is so passionate about hair and can't wait to help clients feel confident and beautiful."

"From soft blondes to rich auburns, I'm all about dimension, shine and hair that looks just as good weeks later," says Kel.

"When you visit the salon you can expect good vibes, honest advice and a bit of a laugh along the way. I can't wait to have you in my chair"

To welcome Kel to town, celebrate the launch of the new salon, and acknowledge the expansion of Aurora Beauty Parlour, Jodie hosted an opening night on 30th May. Clients, friends, family, and community members came together to celebrate this exciting milestone over drinks and nibbles. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to meet the team, explore the stunning new space, and vie for one of the lucky door prizes.

The salon officially opened on 2nd June, much to the delight of everyone. The opening hours are:

- Tuesday: 9am-5pm
- Wednesday & Thursday: 9am-late
- Friday: 9am-4pm

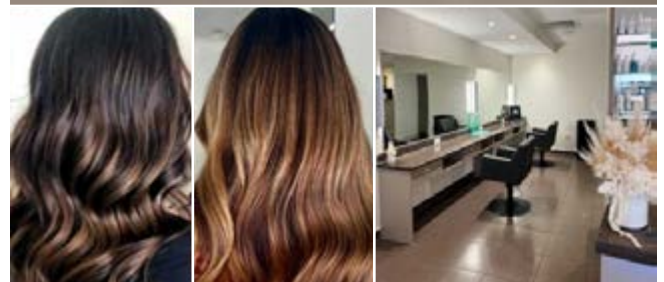
Kel offers a wide range of hair services including kids cuts, mens cuts, ladies cuts, colours, styling, and more. She is also available for selected events throughout the year, including the Tieri Town Party, but always book in as early as possible because spots are limited and get snapped up quickly!

Bookings can be easily made through Fresha, Aurora's online booking system, or by calling the hair salon on 0432 573 282 during business hours.

As Aurora Beauty Parlour continues to grow, they now operate out of two premises. All beauty services will continue to be delivered from their beauty clinic at 6 Talagai Avenue, while all hair services will take place at the brand new hair salon in the town centre.

"For us, this expansion represents so much more than simply opening another space - it symbolises growth, opportunity, pride and gratitude for just how far Aurora Beauty Parlour has come since opening in Tieri in 2019," reflects Jodie.

"We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our community every step of the way - thank you! We cannot wait to welcome you into the salon and to share this exciting new chapter with you all." ●





New Team Members AT TIERI AQUATIC CENTRE

Tieri Aquatic Centre is currently closed for the winter but will reopen its doors again in mid-late August, and when it does, there'll be some new faces at the pool.

Lifeguards, Belynda 'Bells' Perkins, Briar Blake, Courtney Cowan, and Jacinta Watts will be joined by newly qualified lifeguard, Emma Angel. Bill Lines and Keeley Stewart will join Kayley Christensen and Mackenzie Lines as junior lifeguards.

"After a few changes at the pool, it's great to have a full contingent on board again," says Bells.

"When your team is great, it makes work a place you really want to come to. We may be enjoying some downtime at the moment, but we're all super excited to welcome everyone back to the pool in the spring."

In addition to being lifeguards, Belynda, Jacinta, Courtney and Kayley are also Learn 2 Swim instructors. *"Briar is currently training up as well and will be all set to go in Term 4 when we re-open," says Bells.*

Learn 2 Swim

The Learn 2 Swim program will kick off with an intensive program running from 28th September to 2nd October. The standard eight-week Learn 2 Swim program begins on 12th October. Classes run twice a week until 4th December.

"Teaching the Learn 2 Swim program is something I really enjoy. It's amazing to see kids who come to us scared and unsure of the water, suddenly start to love the pool and often go on to become proficient swimmers."

To register for Learn 2 Swim, email tieripool@gmail.com or call the pool on 07 49 816 131.

When the pool is open again, the team is keen to remind the community that you can BYO food to cook on the BBQ facilities, or bring a takeaway or a picnic to enjoy on site before or after your swim.

"Just look out for the communal crows!" warns Bells.

Cheaper than a Coffee

General entry to the pool is just \$4 per adult, \$3.50 per child, and free for under 3s and spectators.

Alternatively, there are plenty of different membership options available, including weekly, monthly, seasonal, or annual passes. You can find details at tieri.com.au/sport/tieri-aquatic-centre.

Tieri Sharks

Tieri Sharks Swimming Club will be kicking off again in September/October. Club night is on Monday afternoons from 5pm, and there are different race distances - including 12.5m, 25m, 50m and 100m - so there's an option for everyone, regardless of ability.

"All ages are welcome and you can do it for fun or for the competition. We have four and five year olds jumping in with their noodles and kick boards, getting involved, having a go, gaining confidence and enjoying plenty of laughs too!" explains Bells.

To find out more about Tieri Sharks Swimming Club, email tierisharks@gmail.com, visit the [Tieri Sharks Facebook page](#) or reach out to the pool. ●



DON'T FORGET:

If you're a permanent employee at OCC, you get reimbursement! Speak to your Supervisor or HR to find out more.





TIERI LADIES SOCIAL CLUB Get Crafty

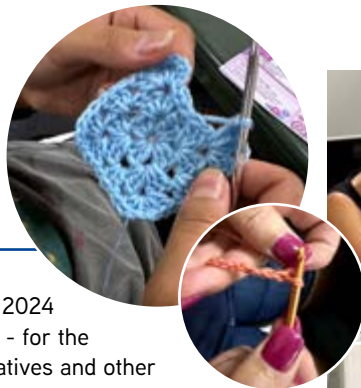
Tieri Ladies Social Hub was established in 2024 to create a central meeting place - or 'hub' - for the women of Tieri to co-create activities, initiatives and other social, community or shared-interest groups.

One such group is the Craft Group, coordinated by Michelle Stallman and Denise Farrar.

The group of eight to 15 women meet every month and have fun creating everything and anything, from Christmas crafts, to trinket dishes, to wreaths, to crocheting workshops with Jill Francis from Capella.

"We put the Craft Group together to help create opportunities for the women in town to get out and about, catch up with old friends and make new ones," explains Michelle.

"We especially want to encourage any women who are new to Tieri to come along. Those of us who have been here a while know just how friendly it is here, but like anywhere, it can be a lonely place if you don't know or connect with anyone."



"So, come along to our next catch up. We always have such a laugh and certainly don't take ourselves too seriously. It's just a way to meet people, have fun and feel a sense of belonging."

The Craft Group meets once a month between 7-9pm, usually at the church. To find out more about the Craft Group and other catch-ups, events and activities, be sure to join the [Tieri Ladies Social Hub Facebook page](#). ●



COUNCIL WELCOMES Amanda Phillott as its New Councillor

Following the region's by-election on Saturday, 16 May 2026, council has welcomed Amanda Phillott as its newest councillor.

Mayor Janice Moriarty said: *"The by-election has provided the community with the opportunity to have their say on who they would like to represent them at the council table."*

"I would like to congratulate Amanda on being the successful candidate and welcome her to council. We look forward to working collaboratively with our newest councillor to continue delivering essential services to the community and progressing key projects across the region."

Council also acknowledged and thanked the other candidates who stood in the by-election, namely:

- Bronwyn Dalton
- Edward Shaw
- Christine Wilson
- Sharyn Heiskari



"Standing for council is a significant commitment to community service, and each candidate demonstrated a willingness to represent and advocate for the Central Highlands community," the Mayor said.

Once sworn in, Amanda Phillott will serve until the next council election in 2028. ●

Source: <https://chrc.qld.gov.au/council/news/>.





MESSAGE FROM THE Police



Thank you to everyone that my family and I have met so far. We have been warmly welcomed into the town and Tieri is already starting to feel like home.

In a small town like ours, it's important to me that you're kept up to date on what's happening at the police station, so here's a snapshot for this quarter...

Carbeen St Theft

While investigations are continuing into the theft of a vehicle from Carbeen St, it's a timely reminder to lock your vehicle and be mindful of where you keep your keys.

Remember to lock up your house whenever you're not home, and place your keys somewhere safe at night. Most vehicle thefts come from keys being left by the front door, so find an alternative location.

Road-Related Enforcement

So far this year, there have sadly been 132 fatalities on Queensland roads, with fatigue and speed major contributing factors. As such, local police will maintain a presence with radar operations on major and minor roads.

Mind your speed and remember to stop, revive and survive.

There will also be an increased focus on drink driving, with more RBT operations, both fixed and mobile, on the roads. I'll be stopping random vehicles for testing, so please, if you are going to drink, don't drive.



Golf Buggies, e-Bikes & e-Scooters

For those of you wishing to drive your golf buggy to and from the golf course, the buggies have to be conditionally registered before I can give authorisation. All this and more will be included in information packs that will be left at the Club detailing the process.

There will be a short amnesty for everyone to get their buggies registered before enforcement action will commence. It's not arduous, but you do have to speak with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

I am continuing to focus on safety for e-scooter and e-bike riders, namely by enforcing the use of helmets. It is an offence to ride either of these items without wearing a helmet, and you could incur a fine of \$166. Legislation aside: concrete hurts. It's hard, a lot harder than your head, so keep yourself safe and wear a helmet.

I also encourage all riders to familiarise themselves with - and follow - the rules of the road and all the other rules associated with riding these items. There's a lot of misunderstandings out there and people often think that because they're not driving a car, the rules of the road don't apply to them. For example, did you know it is an offence to use a mobile phone while riding a bike? And if you're caught, it's the exact same fine as if you were driving a motor vehicle - \$1,251 at last count!

Station News

The station will be open Wednesday's from 10:00am - 12:00pm for all inquiries, operational requirements permitting. If I am not in, please call on 07 4932 3970 and leave a message and I will get back to you to organise a time to meet.

A reminder that the Police station is not equipped to take money, so all gun license and registration inquiries need to go to Emerald. I no longer do any TMR or Suncorp trading either.

Coffee with a Cop

I am starting a casual 'Coffee with a Cop' at Tieri bakery on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 - 9:30am for informal chats.

If you want to know about the dreaded ticket quotas, have a law-related question, are interested in joining the police force, or just want to have a chat, please come down and see me at the bakery.

All formal inquiries should still be directed through the station. ●

Obscure Fine of the Quarter*

Pedestrians who fail to use the footpath can be fined \$66!

**Fines that I have never seen handed out, but are there if needed.*





As a mining town, Tieri supports Oaky Creek Coal with substantial long-term reserves of high-quality medium volatile coking coal. But what is the journey of coal from deep underground to its final markets and use?

In a 4-part series this year, Tieri News will be taking you along for the ride to learn more about our coal, its processing and its end uses. Part 1 took us through the exploration and extraction of coal. In Part 2, we discover how the coal is processed, cleaned and sorted to meet market and environmental requirements...

JOURNEY OF COAL PART 2

Processing

Separating the Coal from Everything Else

When coal comes out of a mine, especially an underground mine, it's rarely just pure coal. Often called 'run-of-mine' coal, there are typically chunks of rock like sandstone or shale from the roof or floor of the coal seam, clay, and other contaminants mixed in. These unwanted materials form ash so removing them is important for quality and efficiency. This is where the **Coal Handling and Preparation Plant** (CHPP or "washery") comes in.

Did You Know?

In one day, Oaky Creek Coal's CHPP can process enough coal to fill a train longer than the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



What Happens at the CHPP?

In simple terms, the plant cleans and sorts the coal into uniform batches, so it meets the specifications that customers want. The messy, raw coal is transported from deep underground to the CHPP using over 15 kilometres of conveyor belts. The run-of-mine coal goes into the plant, and clean, sorted coal comes out on one side, and the unwanted waste rock on the other.

There are typically seven steps to processing the coal:

Waste Management

Throughout the processing of the coal, we responsibly manage any waste. The water used to wash the coal is treated and recirculated as much as possible.

The rocks that are separated out from the coal are sent to a reject pile. Recently, we have started reprocessing certain tailings deposits to recover more coal and reduce coal mine waste.



Primary Screening

The raw coal (mined coal) is passed over vibrating screens which separate pieces by size. Like a massive kitchen sieve, the screens shake vigorously, sifting the fine coal through the holes, while larger pieces stay on top. This system helps filter out any overly large material or initial waste rock from the raw material.

Sizing and Reject Removal

Oversized rock passes through a rotary breaker, which combines crushing, screening, and separation functions to reduce ROM coal to a smaller size fraction while removing impurities and separating tramp material.

CHPP Screening

Once the initial material has been filtered and liberated, it enters the plant and is segregated into three size fractions: coarse, fines, and ultrafines. While the processing methodology for each fraction differs technically, the fundamental objective remains the same — removing impurities and maximising resource recovery.

Washing

This is the heart of coal processing. Washing, or cleaning, uses the principle that coal is lighter than the rocks and dirt it comes in with. Coal is processed using a combination of methods such as a dense medium separation, spirals and flotation. For a dense medium separation, the coarse coal is introduced to a dense liquid to create a slurry that separates the material based on density. The mixture passes through a cyclone, where the lighter coal particles are directed to the product screen, while the heavier rock particles are sent to the reject screen. This effectively separates coal from impurities. Spirals use gravity to separate the lighter, finer coal from heavier impurities as the material flows down a spiral-shaped chute. Flotation uses air bubbles and chemicals to attach to ultrafine coal particles, allowing them to float while impurities sink.

The outcome: the clean coal comes out one side, and the waste rock - called **coal reject or tailings** - is separated out. This improves the quality of the product and reduces the ash produced when the coal is burned.



Did You Know?

The washplant's screens shake 100 times every minute — like a trampoline that never stops bouncing.



OCC PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Dewatering

After washing, the coal is wet. Excess water is removed by putting the coal through a **centrifuge** where it is spun to sling out water (a bit like a salad spinner), or allowed to drain on screens. Sometimes, specialised filters are used. Some types of coal can self-heat if too wet and piled, so the goal is to reduce moisture so that the coal doesn't spoil and isn't too heavy to transport.

Sorting and Blending

The clean coal is now sorted into stockpiles by quality. For example, coal from different parts of the mine might have slightly different energy content or ash content. If needed, we'll **blend** coal from multiple sources to meet a target specification for a shipment.

Because some customers, such as power stations, prefer a certain size range for their boilers, the clean coal is also sorted and categorised by size: lump coal, granules, fines, etc.

Loading for Transport

Once the coal is processed, conveyor belts move it to a train loadout storage bin that can gravity-feed the coal into trains or trucks. A train loadout bin is like a funnel – a train travels underneath, and the coal is released from the bin to fill each wagon in turn, with strict controls to prevent overfilling.

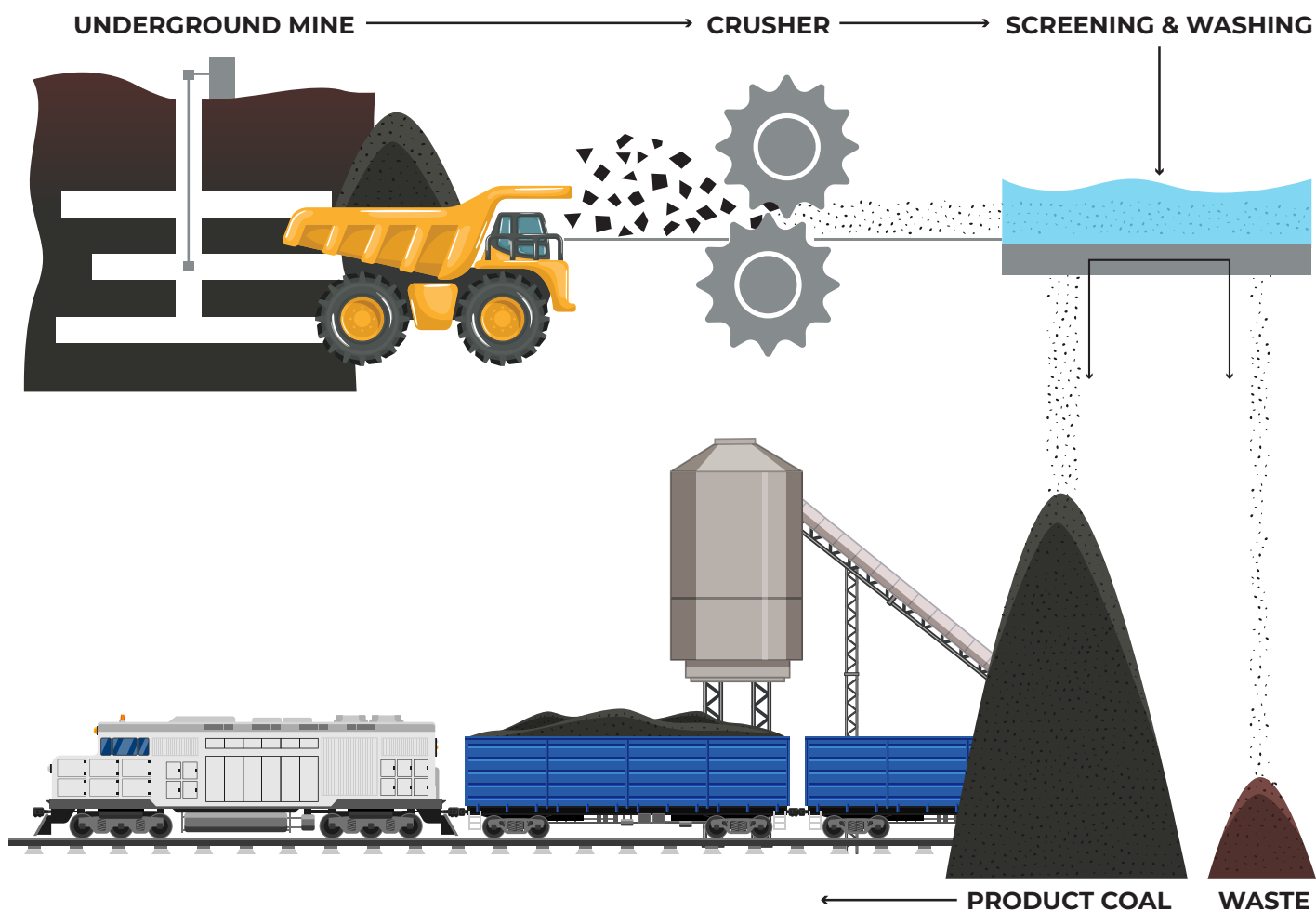
Once it's loaded onto the train wagons, the coal is ready to be **transported to the port where it is then transferred to client shipments**. We'll learn about this exciting stage in part 3 of the Journey of Coal series in the next edition of Tieri News!



Did You Know?

Every hour, the CHPP washes enough coal to fill 100 school buses – that's the same weight as about 250,000 chocolate bars!





Jobs in Coal Processing

Many different skilled workers ensure that coal is effectively processed. Some key roles include:

Plant operators (CHPP operators)

Laboratory technician

Maintenance crew
(fitter, boilermaker, electrician and planner)

Logistics coordinator

Environmental and quality officer

Process engineers

Processing at the CHPP ensures the coal is more consistent and of the highest quality for our customers. It's an important step in ensuring we safely and responsibly produce an economically valuable product that meets market demands. ●



OCC PROJECTS & INITIATIVES



OCC HOSTS First 'MINEher' Session for 2026



On Wednesday 18th March, Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) held its first 'MINEher' Women in Mining event for the year.

To kick start the season, they leaned into the 'Give to Gain' theme of the 2026 International Women's Day (IWD). The IWD campaign encouraged a mindset of generosity and collaboration, and OCC's 'Give to Gain' for this session was DiSC® profiling.

In a previous MINEher event, Kylie Ah Wong, Director of Health and Safety at Glencore Coal Assets Australia, shared how understanding her own DiSC profile had been instrumental throughout her career, particularly in developing self-awareness, understanding the impact of her communication style on others, and adapting her approach to leadership and stakeholder engagement.

"Kylie's presentation garnered a great deal of interest amongst participants in DiSC profiling as a professional development tool," explains Michelle Cody, HR Manager at OCC.

"For women in the mining industry - where the ability to influence across technical, operational, and leadership groups is often critical to success - understanding your DiSC profile can be a powerful tool for boosting confidence, tailoring communication, building relationships, expanding influence, and advancing career growth,"

OCC engaged Danielle Duell from People with Purpose to facilitate DiSC profiling along with an interactive development workshop for participants.

The program included:

- Individual DiSC assessments and personalised reports for each participant
- A facilitated on-site workshop to interpret results and understand individual communication and behavioural preferences
- Practical application of DiSC principles to communication, teamwork, influence, conflict resolution and workplace relationships
- Discussion and reflection on how different personality styles approach challenges, decision-making, change and collaboration.

The workshop was highly engaging and practical, providing participants with tools that could be immediately applied in day-to-day workplace interactions and leadership situations.

"A key benefit of the session was the level of discussion and self-reflection it generated," reflects Michelle. *"Participants explored why they are naturally drawn to certain types of work, situations and ways of communicating, while also developing a greater appreciation for the differing styles and perspectives of others."*

The workshop created a common language for discussing communication preferences and helped participants better understand how to adapt their approach to build stronger working relationships and achieve more effective outcomes.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with participants valuing the practical nature of the workshop and the opportunity to gain deeper insight into both themselves and their colleagues.

The session aligned strongly with the objectives of the MINEher program by supporting personal growth, leadership capability, confidence and connection across women in mining at OCC.

Events with Purpose

The Women in Mining 'MINEher' event series is all about connection, conversation, and community. The aim is to bring women across different parts of OCC together to share experiences, learn from one another, and build support networks that make everyone stronger.

The quarterly events are intended to be relaxed and honest, covering a wide range of topics including career development, leadership, resilience, and balance. Importantly, they give OCC's female workers a chance to hear from others who have navigated similar challenges and opportunities throughout their careers.

"We're really grateful to the leaders across OCC who support and encourage attendance at these events. Ultimately, investing in connection and growth benefits everyone, not just those who attend - it creates a ripple effect that can be felt throughout the organisation."

If you're interested in getting involved with the Women in Mining 'MINEher' event series, please reach out to Katie Duncan or Michelle on 07 4984 7100. ●



Save with RemServ AN OCC EMPLOYEE BENEFIT

RemServ is one of the leading providers of workplace benefits in Queensland, servicing over 110,000 employees across a range of industries, including Glencore.

Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) works with RemServ to provide one of its most valuable employee benefits: salary packaging.

Salary packaging is an arrangement where eligible employees agree to receive part of their salary as benefits, instead of cash pay. This can be an effective way to reduce your taxable income and potentially lower the amount of tax you pay, meaning you could end up boosting your disposable income.

Typically, our disposable income is what's left after our gross salary has been taxed, and we've paid our mortgage or rent, bills and everyday living expenses.

With salary packaging, instead of getting your full salary paid directly to you, a portion is used to pay for pre-approved expenses or benefits. As salary packaging payments are made before tax, your taxable salary could be reduced, leading to potential tax savings.

Remote Area Benefits

Living in a remote town like Tieri has many benefits...but have you ever considered making the most of living remote with salary packaging?

Provided you meet the ATO requirements, you may be eligible to package Remote Area Benefits, such as:

- The interest you pay on your mortgage for the house you live in;
- Rent you pay to a real estate agent, private party, or to your employer for the house you live in;

- Electricity or gas bills for your home, provided you are already salary packaging the rent or mortgage interest.

As a full-time employee, you could also salary package work-related expenses such as:

- Airport lounge membership
- Self-education courses, journal subscriptions and reference books
- Stationery, leased or rented computer, office equipment repairs or work-related software
- Financial advice
- Professional memberships and newspaper or magazine subscriptions.

How to Claim Remote Area Benefits

The only way to claim your benefits is to fill out the RemServ Remote Area claim form, available from the OCC HR team.

When filling out your claim form, you'll need to nominate an amount to be deducted from your salary annually, or per pay, to cover the cost of your claim. This money will be taken from your salary before tax is taken out and before you get paid.

Make sure all benefits you want to claim are signed for and approved by your Manager.

Once complete, you'll need to send your claim form to RemServ either via email at remserv@remserv.com.au or post to GPO Box 424, Brisbane QLD 4001.

If you'd like to find out more, you can call RemServ on 1300 30 39 40, or chat to the OCC HR team. ●



One of the leading providers of workplace benefits in Queensland



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We service over 110,000 employees across a range of industries, all over Australia





INSIDE OUT WITH...



For a different spin on Inside Out... this issue, we spoke with Nieresh Jeyarajakumar, Maintenance Superintendent, to find out more about Oaky Creek Coal's (OCC) maintenance team.

Name: Oaky Creek Coal's (OCC) Maintenance Team

Who is the maintenance team made up of?

A diverse group of people including trades, technicians, operators and engineers. The team includes myself as Maintenance Superintendent, Dan McCamley as Reliability Engineer, Mark Murray and Leander Chihuri as our Condition Monitoring Technicians, Jamie Fleming as Maintenance Engineer, and Mel Munro, Brad Cannon, Brad Hardgrave, Terrence Macheru, and Brendan Lindsey as Maintenance Planners.

What are you responsible for at OCC?

I lead the Reliability and Planning Function, which includes:

- overseeing maintenance planning
- reliability engineering
- condition monitoring activities

...all of which help support the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of our assets across the business.

The role is focused on improving work management practices, planning quality, equipment reliability, defect elimination through root cause analysis, and long-term asset performance, while working closely with production teams to support day-to-day operations.

A big part of the role is also about building collaboration across the business and helping create a more proactive approach to maintenance and reliability.

Can you tell us any of the projects or workstreams you're currently focused on?

- Strengthening our maintenance work management processes and improving how we plan, schedule, and execute work across the operation. A lot of effort is going into building more consistent and sustainable processes that improve planning quality, schedule compliance, and overall maintenance efficiency.
- Improving equipment reliability through defect elimination initiatives, condition monitoring, and better use of operational and maintenance data to support decision-making.
- Increasing visibility and engagement with crews underground and in the field, ensuring our team remains closely connected to the operation and the challenges people are facing day to day.
- Continuing to refine maintenance strategies, with a big focus on optimising our trunk belt strategies and ensuring our maintenance on electrical assets is asset specific and ensuring compliance to legislation and Australian Standards.

What are some of the biggest challenges your team helps solve?

We help to maintain safe and reliable equipment, while balancing operational demands. In mining, production requirements can change quickly, so a large part of our role is ensuring maintenance work is properly planned and prioritised to minimise downtime while still managing risk appropriately.

The team also plays a key role in identifying and addressing recurring equipment reliability issues. That can involve analysing failures, improving maintenance strategies, coordinating defect



elimination work, and working closely with operations and execution teams to prevent problems from becoming larger operational impacts.

Ultimately, a lot of what we do is focused on creating a more proactive operation, reducing reactive work, improving planning quality, and helping the business make better long-term decisions around asset reliability and maintenance.

What experience or skills are most important in your line of work?

One of the most important things in reliability and maintenance planning is understanding both the equipment and the people involved in keeping an operation running. Technical knowledge is critical, but so is the ability to work closely with different teams, coordinate priorities, and make practical decisions in fast-paced operational environments.

I was fortunate to start my career in the coal mining industry more than 15 years ago with Joy Mining, where I gained hands-on exposure to Longwall and Development equipment. That experience gave me a strong understanding of how these assets operate, how they fail, and what is required to maintain them safely and effectively. It also gave me a real appreciation for the importance of product knowledge and the value of learning directly from the people working on the equipment every day.

Over time, I've learned that success in this field is built on a combination of problem solving, communication, planning, and the ability to interpret operational and maintenance data to make informed decisions. Working closely with operations and execution teams is a huge part of the role, because reliability is never achieved by one department alone; it comes from collaboration across the business.

In mining especially, where safety and production are so closely linked, having a strong understanding of risk, asset management, and continuous improvement is essential. It's an industry that constantly challenges you to keep learning and adapting, which is one of the things I enjoy most about it.

Why is your team's work important to the ongoing success of OCC?

Reliable equipment and effective maintenance practices are critical to keeping the operation running safely and efficiently. Our role is to help ensure maintenance work is properly planned, risks are managed, equipment reliability is improved, and the workforce has the support and information needed to execute work safely and effectively.

What impact does the work of your team have on the wider team, customers, stakeholders, or the community?

It has a direct impact across the entire operation because effective maintenance planning and reliable equipment are essential to supporting safe and consistent production.

By taking a more proactive approach to reliability and maintenance, the team helps reduce unplanned downtime, improve safety outcomes, and support more stable operations.

What's something people might not realise your team does behind the scenes?

How much work goes into maintaining and improving our maintenance documentation, particularly updating Production Resource Tools (PRTs) and related maintenance documents. Historically, this has been a long-standing challenge for the business, so a major focus for the team has been improving the quality, accuracy, and consistency of these documents.





INSIDE OUT WITH...

One of the key things we are encouraging is for the workforce to actively markup documents in the field and bring any issues, improvements, or inaccuracies directly back to the Maintenance Team for updating. The people using these documents every day often have the best insight into what works well, what needs clarification, and where improvements can be made.

By creating that direct feedback loop between the field and the planning and reliability teams, we can continuously improve the quality of our documentation and ensure it better reflects the realities of the job. Ultimately, better documentation helps improve safety, planning quality, work execution, and overall reliability across the operation.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The variety and the opportunity to solve real operational problems that make a difference to the business. No two days are ever the same. One day you might be working through a reliability issue on critical equipment, and the next you're helping improve a process or supporting teams to better plan and execute work.

I also enjoy working with people across the operation. Underground mining is a team environment, and some of the best outcomes come from bringing different groups together to solve problems collaboratively. Seeing improvements in reliability, planning quality, and overall team engagement is really rewarding because you know it has a direct impact on safety, production, and the day-to-day workload of the crews.

What are you excited about for this year?

Continuing to build and strengthen the Reliability and Planning Function across the operation. There's a real opportunity to further improve how we plan, schedule, and execute maintenance work, while also increasing engagement between maintenance, operations, and engineering teams.

I'm also looking forward to seeing the benefits of some of the work management and reliability initiatives that have been put in place over the last couple of years. A big focus for the team is moving toward a more proactive maintenance culture, improving visibility underground, and continuing to build systems and processes that are repeatable, efficient, and sustainable long term.

Most importantly, I'm excited about continuing to develop the team and creating an environment where people feel supported, engaged, and empowered to contribute to improving the operation.

The whole team is stuck on a desert island, who is most likely to find their way home?

No one. True to form, the team would raise a work order and a Purchase Request for a boat to come and rescue us, but someone would forget to attach the snippet from the forecast sheet...in all seriousness, it would be Mel - she lives on a boat and is very well travelled. She would likely be the only survivor!

If a movie was being made about the maintenance team, what would be the title of the film?

"When the Belts Stop".

What motto does the team work by?

People, Processes, and Assets.

We believe strong maintenance and reliability outcomes start with people building capable teams, maintaining strong communication,

and working collaboratively across the operation. From there, having clear and consistent processes is critical to ensure work is planned, prioritised, and executed safely and efficiently.

When you get the people and processes right, the assets will generally perform the way they are intended to.

It's a simple mindset, but it keeps the team focused on supporting each other, improving the way we work, and ultimately delivering safer and more reliable operations.

If there's one thing you'd like the organisation to better understand about your team, what would it be?

The team is focused on creating a more proactive and reliable operation, and that requires close collaboration with every part of the business. The best outcomes are achieved when maintenance, operations, engineering, and support teams are all working toward the same goals. At the end of the day, we're here to support the people doing the work in the field and help ensure our assets are safe, reliable, and available when the operation needs them.

How can people engage with the maintenance team?

We're always out and about, so the best way to engage with us is simply to have a conversation when you see us, or drop into the Engineering Office and Production Office opposite the Conveyor Team.

You will also start to see us more underground. One of our key focuses is being more proactive and engaged with the operation where the work is happening, rather than just working from behind a desk. Building strong relationships and maintaining open communication with the wider workforce is a big part of improving reliability and supporting safe, efficient operations. ●



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: Allan McPhail...
most people call me Al.

How long have you been with Glencore and Oaky Creek?

Approximately 20 years. In that time, I've been back to Oaky North three times - I'm a bit of a homing pigeon.

What's your current role?

I'm an Explosion Risk Zone (ERZ) Controller on the Process crew. It's a statutory safety role in underground coal mining.

What are you responsible for?

Safely setting up the panels (a section of the underground coal seam) before the Development crew comes underground.

What does a typical day look like for you?

I'm up at 3:45 then off to work, starting with the Process crew meeting. Then it's into the best part of the day: Bob Cady's meeting and the fun and banter that comes with it. From there, I head underground and try to keep Longwall 603 on schedule.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with all types of different characters.

What's the most challenging part?

Trying to keep all those different characters singing the same song.

Have you always worked in the mining industry?

No - I started work at 15 as an Apprentice Fitter working at a power station. I asked for some time off to go to Europe, but that request got knocked back, so I pulled the pin and went anyway.

When I got back home, I was lucky enough to get a job at Angus Place Colliery, NSW in 1982. I started as a Fitter then moved to Queensland as a Miner. In 1994, I earned my Deputy certificate and have worked as a Deputy or Shift Supervisor ever since.



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

Back in the 80s working in the mines was a natural progression when you lived in Lithgow. I ended up at Oaky after I was retrenched from Gordonstone and was working with Allied at the old Maywin mine at number 1.

If you weren't working as a Deputy, what would be your ideal job?

A tour guide.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Travelling, riding motorbikes and playing golf.

Who do you spend your time with?

My wife and family, and the lads at coffee club.

What's a little known fact about you?

I have 11 grandkids!

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

Zulu - purely for the steely determination of the British and Allied soldiers not to give up.

What song will you always turn up louder?

'Back in Black' by AC/DC - I watched them when they came back to Australia, brilliant!

Favourite quote?

"I will come down and cast my eye over it" or "Am I speaking Russian?" - they are my own quotes. ●





INSIDE OUT WITH...



Name: Laura Danter

How long have you been with Glencore and Oaky Creek?

I've been at Oaky Creek for around eight months.

Can you tell us about your current role?

I'm a Contracts Support Officer.

What does your role involve?

My role involves processing and authorising contractor claims, raising purchase orders and purchase requisitions, and ensuring contractor pre-qualifications are current or in progress for both existing and new vendors.

What does a typical day look like for you?

My day usually starts at 6am. I get ready for work, have breakfast, feed our fur babies, Cleo and Leo, then head in for the day. At work, I process and authorise claims, update vendor registers, and help with anything else that comes my way.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love that there are so many moving parts in this role and that every day is different. I'm also very lucky to work with an incredible and supportive team.

What has been the most challenging part of the role?

Definitely keeping up with all the moving parts, but that's also what makes the role exciting.

Have you always worked in the mining industry?

No, this is my first role in the industry. Before this, I worked as a flight attendant with Virgin Australia for three years. Prior to that, I worked in corporate finance and personal assistant roles.

What attracted you to the mining industry, Glencore and Oaky Creek?

My fiancé, Pat, is a Coordinator at Oaky Creek Surface (OCS). About nine months ago we decided to move from Brisbane to Tieri for a great opportunity and a fresh start. We've really enjoyed becoming part of the local community and experiencing a different pace of life. I was attracted to Glencore because of the variety of opportunities to grow my skills, expand my knowledge, and

progress within the business.

If you weren't working as a Contracts Support Officer, what would your ideal job be?

I'd love to run my own business in the natural beauty industry.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Spending time with my fiancé and our fur babies, travelling, catching up with friends, cooking, baking, camping, trying new foods, volunteering at the golf club, and unwinding with paint-by-numbers and a glass of wine. I also enjoy getting involved in the local community where I can.

Who do you spend most of your time with?

My family and friends.

What's a little-known fact about you?

I have a Diploma in Health Science and have been developing my own natural skincare business, Mystical Rose, over the past four years. I'm passionate about natural wellness and creating products using quality ingredients.

I'm also a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) in Queensland, a massive animal lover, and - many moons ago - I had the amazing opportunity to sing at the Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane a few times.

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

Mamma Mia! - I love the soundtrack and it's such a fun, feel-good movie.

What song will you always turn up louder?

Rainbow in the Dark by Dio.

Do you have a favourite quote?

"A dream is a wish your heart makes." — Cinderella ●

Name: Junwen Mu,
but people call me Bosco.

How long have you been with Glencore and Oaky Creek?

I joined Oaky Creek North in April of this year.

What's your current role?

Geotechnical Engineer, in the Geology & Geotechnical team of the Technical Services Department.

What are you responsible for?

I support underground strata control and ground support management, including strata stability monitoring, support design, inspections and assisting operations to manage geotechnical risks underground. 'Strata' refers to the rock layers surrounding underground mine workings and roadways. Part of my role is helping monitor ground conditions and making sure the mine remains safe and stable for people working underground.



What does a typical day look like for you?

I am doing a 9-day fortnight roster. My day usually starts early at around 4:30am. I have breakfast and head to site, usually walking into the office with a coffee before 5:30am.

The first thing I do is review the previous shift reports, particularly any reported strata issues. At 6am, I attend the Pre-Start meeting to understand the planned activities, crew allocation, and priorities across the different panels for the day.

After the Pre-Start talk, I continue to analyse strata monitoring data, check Trigger Action Response Plans (TARP) levels, and prepare the geotechnical updates for the 7am Tech Services morning meeting. TARPs are designed to guide operators and supervisors in the day to day assessment and management of mining conditions, recognising the fact that conditions will vary due to strata and ground stress variability.

Depending on priorities and actions for the day, I may head underground to complete inspections and assess conditions. If there are no underground inspections planned, I will usually spend time in the office drafting and reviewing design reports, preparing support plans, and working on other strata control related tasks.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the problem-solving aspect of geotechnical engineering and the fact that every day underground can be different. I also enjoy working closely with experienced operators and learning from people across the mine.

What's the most challenging part?

One of the biggest challenges is balancing safety, particularly, and operational requirements in a constantly changing underground environment.

Have you always worked in the mining industry?

No. Before joining the mining industry, I worked in civil geotechnical engineering and consulting for several years in Sydney and Melbourne. I moved into underground coal mining in the Lithgow area of NSW in 2022.

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

I was attracted to the technical challenges and the scale of underground mining. Glencore Oaky North also has a strong reputation in the industry, and I was excited by the opportunity to work with experienced people and continue developing my skills.



If you weren't working as a Geotechnical Engineer, what would be your ideal job?

Probably something still related to engineering and problem solving. Maybe I'd go back to the civil industry and continue to work as a geotechnical engineer in civil consulting companies.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I enjoy spending time with my dog, cooking, travelling and exploring new places. I also enjoy going back to China to spend time with my family and travel with them whenever I get the chance.

Who do you spend your time with?

Friends, family and dogs.

What's a little known fact about you?

I'm originally from China and moved to Australia in 2017 to study Geotechnical Engineering at UNSW, where I completed my master's degree. My English has definitely improved a lot over the years and is still getting better, although Australian slang can still completely defeat me sometimes.

People sometimes think I'm a bit quiet when they first meet me, but I usually just take a bit of time to get comfortable and understand the people around me. Once I know everyone better, I become much more talkative.

In technical discussions, I may not always be the loudest person in the room, but I spend a lot of time thinking carefully before I say something. I prefer to contribute clear and confident points that get straight to the core of the issue.

I learn new Australian slang every day, and mining definitely has a language of its own!

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

Probably The Wandering Earth (流浪地球). I really enjoy the scale of the story and the idea of people around the world working together to protect humanity. It also reminds me of the importance of looking after our environment and the planet we live on.

What song will you always turn up louder?

Ru yuan (如愿) by Faye Wong, a famous Chinese female singer. The song is about love, hope, sacrifice, and one generation wishing for a better future for the next. I really like the meaning behind the lyrics and the peaceful feeling the song gives.

Favourite quote?

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. - Albert Einstein ●



OCC ACHIEVES Additional Rehabilitation Certification



Over the last few months, Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) has achieved several significant milestones in rehabilitation and mine closure planning, reinforcing our commitment to responsible land stewardship and long-term environmental outcomes.

In a major achievement, the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) has certified an additional **879.82 hectares** of rehabilitation across OCC's operation.

To put this into perspective, that's an area equivalent to approximately 1,240 NRL football fields!

This latest certification brings Oaky Creek's total certified rehabilitation area to **3,812.64 hectares**, representing a significant rehabilitation achievement within the Queensland resources sector. The total certified area is now approximately 2.6 times larger than Great Keppel Island, demonstrating the scale of rehabilitation efforts undertaken across the site.

"Achieving certification from DETSI is a critical milestone for OCC as it provides independent verification that the rehabilitated land meets strict regulatory requirements and agreed completion criteria," explains Madison Bennett, Environment and Community Advisor at OCC.

"It reflects years of planning, earthworks, soil management, vegetation establishment, monitoring, and ongoing maintenance, and is something the team is very proud of."

In another major milestone, after approximately five years of development, consultation, and regulatory review, OCC has successfully secured approval of its Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) and accompanying PRCP Schedule ([page 44](#)). The approved PRCP provides a clear framework for how disturbed land will be progressively rehabilitated throughout the life of the operation and beyond, ensuring rehabilitation activities continue to deliver sustainable outcomes for future land use. ●



THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESSFUL REHABILITATION: Healthy Soil



Successful rehabilitation starts beneath the surface. While plants and vegetation are often the most visible sign of rehabilitation progress, healthy soil is the foundation that supports long-term ecosystem development and sustainable land use.

A well-functioning soil does much more than simply support plant growth. Healthy soils store and cycle nutrients (like Phosphorus and Nitrogen), retain moisture, support microbial (soil bug) activity, reduce erosion and soil loss, and provide the conditions needed for native vegetation to establish and thrive.

These functions are essential for creating stable and resilient post-mining landscapes.



GOOD TEXTURE

Allows roots to grow and water to move through the soil.



ORGANIC MATTER

Builds fertility and supports soil development.



STABLE AGGREGATES (CLUMPS)

Improves soil structure and reduces erosion.



WATER HOLDING CAPACITY

Stores moisture for plant growth during dry periods.



ACTIVE SOIL BIOLOGY

Microorganisms drive nutrient cycling and soil health.



LOW COMPACTION

Allows roots, air and water to move freely through the soil.

At OCC, rehabilitation aims to rebuild each of these soil functions through careful landform design, topsoil management, and the establishment of vegetation communities that contribute to ongoing soil development.

As plants grow, their roots hold on to and stabilise the soil, improve water infiltration, and contribute organic matter back into the ground. Over time, this organic matter supports soil structure, nutrient cycling, and biological activity.



How do you know if soil is healthy?

One of the key indicators of rehabilitation success is the gradual development of soil that can sustain itself with minimal intervention. As soil quality improves, vegetation communities become more diverse and resilient, creating positive feedback loops that further enhance ecosystem function.

Healthy soil is described as the basis of rehabilitation. While it may not be as visible as established trees or grasslands, it underpins every stage of ecosystem recovery and plays a critical role in achieving sustainable rehabilitation outcomes. ●



PRCP Has Been Approved By DETSI!

In an exciting new development, Oaky Creek Coal's (OCC) Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP) and Schedule has been approved by the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

"The approval conditions of the PRCP include specific requirements detailing how the areas disturbed by our mining activities are to be rehabilitated, and by when," explains Joel May, Environment and Community Manager, OCC.

"As we head towards the final years of the mine, this provides clarity and certainty for both OCC and the wider community of the quality and timeliness of completing activities that safely and responsibly rehabilitate the landscapes we have operated upon to post mine land uses reflective of the natural and pastoral activities around us."

Whilst progressive land rehabilitation has been an integral part of OCC's operations since the very beginning, the E&C team has been working specifically on the PRCP since 2020. Now that it has been approved, the immediate next steps are to align OCC's internal closure planning activities with the finalised PRCP and schedule.

Longer term, some of the key milestones planned for progressive closure on and offsite include:

- 1 In the lead up to last coal, completing major projects such as the rehabilitation earthworks at the Son Of Cattle and Recovery pits, surface infrastructure areas of 500 and 700 series longwall panel areas, and some completed and dried out inpit Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF).
- 2 After last coal, there's likely to be increased activity with demolition works across the mine's infrastructure areas, including the Coal Handling and Processing Plant, and further rehabilitation earthworks across legacy open cut areas and the Out of Pit TSF.
- 3 Post closure of the mine, there will continue to be ongoing monitoring and maintenance on site.

As rehabilitation work is carried out, the OCC E&C team will track and monitor activities and completion against the PRCP and Schedule requirements.

As always, you - the community - will be kept informed ([page 42](#)) through existing communication and engagement channels, including the Tieri Community Reference Group, Tieri website (www.tieri.com.au), and right here in Tieri News. ●



OCC Team Members Honoured at QMRS Awards Night



In 2025, Queensland Mines Rescue Service (QMRS) was successful in securing the prestigious Australian National Medal for Service for team members who have dedicated 15 years or more of service to the mines rescue community.

The National Medal is one of Australia's most esteemed service awards. It is a rare honour awarded by the Australian Government in recognition of long-term dedication, diligence, and commitment to roles that protect life and property. It highlights the significant sacrifices and efforts our volunteer team members give to the benefit of others.

On the 10th June 2026, two members of Oaky Creek Coal (OCC) were presented with the National Medal at a formal Service Awards Presentation Evening in Emerald: Belinda Duffy and Francis Rolls!

The following individuals were also recognised for the QMRS Service Badge for their years of service to Mines Rescue:

- Leslee Kerle
- Downie Langthorne
- Clint Sullivan
- James Vardanega

This is a phenomenal achievement that acknowledges each of their outstanding contributions to mines rescue at OCC, and across the industry.

"Whether it is 'basic' first aid lifting or conducting an escape from the mine, these people have spent countless hours above and beyond their role to train and practice to an exceptional level. It is incredibly reassuring - and humbling - to know that, in an emergency, we have such knowledgeable, disciplined and caring people in our team that we can rely on to get themselves and others to safety," says Bernie Lambley, Operations Manager at OCC.

"Dedicating yourself to mines rescue for even a couple of years is a big commitment. To do so for a decade or more is an amazing accomplishment and a credit to those who have achieved this prestigious recognition. On behalf of everyone at OCC, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the industry and to your fellow work mates. We all greatly appreciate it."





Jimmy V Retires FROM OAKY ★★★★★

He's known for his many sayings, his love of coffee, and for the guidance and support he gives to those around him, both inside and outside of work. After 20 years at Oaky Creek Coal, Tieri News caught up with Jimmy 'V' Vardanega as he sets sail on his retirement...and the other side of the world!

What date did you start at Oaky and what was your role?

I started at Oaky Creek on 5th June 2006 with another electrician and our role was to clean up the outbye belt systems and maintenance. After several days we earned ourselves the nicknames of 'Pockets and Coffee Cup'. This is typical of the mining industry and, even after two decades, it is still well known which one was my nickname.

What do you remember about your first day?

I was standing in front of the control room with seven other electricians when a Longwall Coordinator raced past us, and then stopped, asking where he could find an electrician to reset a belt - no one said a word! My first reaction was how on earth does this place run?

You've had many roles since then, what has been your favourite and why?

Mentoring apprentices has always been my favourite role as I feel an obligation to pass on the knowledge and wisdom of my 36 years in the mining industry. It's a high-risk environment that we work in, and I have always felt that those of us who are more experienced owe it to the younger generation to provide good guidance. This sets them up to work safely and ensures we all go home safe at the end of our shift.

What has been a stand out moment/s?

Being involved in numerous Mines Rescue teams and competing locally, nationally and internationally at the highest level has been the highlight of my time at Oaky. Mines Rescue is critically important to enable us to be ready to respond to any situation that may occur. I consider it an honour and a privilege to have reached my 30 years of service this year with Queensland Mines Rescue Service (QMRS).

What people or projects helped shape you and your career?

I've held numerous roles from Shift Engineer to Outbye Coordinator to Supervisor - they have all, in some way, improved my outlook on my working career. From when I very first started at Oaky Creek there were many people that guided my professional development and made me who I am today. From coworkers to Mine Managers to the CEO. I was in the store one day before the start of shift and began talking to someone I didn't know. They were looking for something and I helped them out. It turned out this person was the CEO of the company! It showed that you should always be prepared to help people out, regardless of who they are.



You're currently travelling the world; where are you answering these questions from and where's next?

We are certainly not letting the grass grow under our feet in retirement! I'm writing to you from Cambodia and as you can see from the picture, I still love a good cup of coffee!

We started off on a golfing holiday in Vietnam, then joined my sister and her husband for a tour of Vietnam and Cambodia. A quick stop home for three weeks and then off to Italy and the Balkans for seven weeks, followed by a caravan trip and then three weeks in New Zealand and a week at Port Douglas and Cairns. It's a tough life, but someone's gotta do it.

You're known for maximising as many learning and training opportunities as possible, accumulating 196 individual training certificates during your time at Oaky North. What is your philosophy behind this?

My philosophy on training and development is that you can never be too skilled to do the role you are doing. Training generally involves working with likeminded people that want to better themselves and I believe it can only be a good thing for the company and your coworkers, to ensure that you are keeping your skills and standards to the highest level.

I have had many mentors in my career at Oaky and all of them have helped me to develop my skills both personally and professionally and I am very grateful to them for that.



What are you most proud of from your time at OCC?

I am most proud of the friendships that I have formed with coworkers and the respect and support that I have received.

You've no doubt learned a lot over the years. What would you say has been your biggest learning?

To never say never, and to never take anything for granted - no matter how many times you have done the job before.

Things can happen in an instant and that was recently proven when we had a HV incident that could easily have been a fatality.

Oaky has just had their new intake of apprentices. What advice would you have for them?

For new apprentices and any other new workers that have just started at Oaky, I would tell them to get involved, ask plenty of questions, and be prepared to get your hands dirty. One of my most known sayings is that there is never a dumb question.

For your retirement the Jimmy V Handbook was created with over 50 messages from people across the business. What was your reaction?

I was incredibly humbled by the time and effort that everyone took to contribute and write their thoughts down about what they will remember about me. I was genuinely very surprised and touched.

I was also extremely honoured to have the Jimmy V Cup presented to me as a perpetual trophy that will be awarded to teams for a Training Day round.



After so long at Oaky people must know you well. What might they be surprised to learn about you?

I've pretty much been an open book at work and everyone knows that I love my golf, I love a beer, I love my family and friends, and I love to travel...but one thing I haven't done that might surprise some people is caravanning! We are embarking on our first ever caravan trip later this year. I'm going to cross my fingers and hope for the best as I'm not sure this is something I'll enjoy. You never know, I might see you on the road somewhere.

Anything you would like to say to the people at Oaky and across Tieri?

Thanks for the memories Tieri and Oaky Creek. I will cherish the friendships made and the experiences had.

From when we first moved to this top little mining town, I have always said that you need to be prepared to step outside your front door and get involved in the community. Living in a small town really is what you make it, and we have loved every minute of the life we made for ourselves in Tieri, thanks to you.

I'll end with the quote that I'm probably most known for: "Ain't gonna happen today, brother!" And remember friends, there's always a bed and a beer or cuppa at Shoal Point. ●



Tieri Community Directory



Australia Post Tieri	4984 8108
Bi-rite Electrical	4981 6650
BKT Taxation Bookkeeping Services	0418 390 664
ISS 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
Central Highlands Wildlife Carers Inc	0475 288 301
Wildlife Rehabilitation Qld	0468 713 586
Fauna Rescue Whitsundays	4947 3389
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**
GLENORE



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

DATA CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING - JANUARY 2026



Share your story in Tieri News

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