

Our sponsored apprentices



Earlier this year the Wallarah 2 Coal Project entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Coast Group Training, in which Wallarah agreed to provide funding and support to apprentices seeking placement in the electrical, automotive and engineering trades.

Partnering with host businesses within the Wyong Local Government Area, Central Coast Group Training organised the placement of four apprentices (two school based apprentices from Wyong Trade High School and two full time apprentices from the local community).

Peter Smith from the Wallarah 2 Coal Project recently met one of these sponsored apprentices, Gavin Drake, to find out how he is enjoying his new role.

Gavin Drake, DNA Electrical in Tuggerah



DNA Electrical has been operating on the Central Coast for more than 20 years and is currently taking on three apprentices at various stages. Having recently changed professions, Gavin is a mature-aged first year electrical apprentice and said that he is thoroughly enjoying his time with DNA Electrical.

“It’s going great, I’m learning a lot,” said Gavin, who is undertaking the study portion of his apprenticeship at Hunter TAFE’s Wyong Campus.

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cover story continued...

“Being a little older, I found it difficult to get an apprenticeship but I was really interested in gaining skills in the electrical trade because it’s such a varied job and there are lots of different options available to you when you finish,” he added.

Gavin’s Manager at DNA Electrical, Steve Christie said that a mature-aged apprentice such as Gavin has been a positive addition to the team.

“It’s great to have someone with such a strong work ethic, who is self-motivated and eager to learn,” said Steve.

Steve explained that taking on a new apprentice can be a huge obligation, particularly financially, and that the funding and support from Wallarah 2 has helped eliminate some of that pressure.

“Walarah’s sponsorship made the decision to take on an apprentice much easier and we couldn’t be happier to have Gavin join our team,” Steve added.

Central Coast Group Training has been monitoring Gavin’s process with ongoing performance assessments and so far, he has received fantastic feedback.

“Working with Gavin at DNA Electrical has been an interesting experience for everyone at Central Coast Group Training,” explained Rebecca Freeman from Central Coast Group Training.

“It would have been about 15 years ago that Dave Mears, the CEO of DNA Electrical went through Central Coast Group Training as an apprentice himself!” she said.

Walarah 2 looks forward to catching up with Gavin and all the other apprentices throughout the stages of their apprenticeships.

What you need to know about Wallarah 2...

Job creation:

In construction, Wallarah 2 will directly employ up to 450 people and will generate nearly 600 further jobs in the Central Coast economy.

During the operations there will be 300 direct jobs and over 500 continual flow-on jobs in the Central Coast region alone and more than 1700 jobs in total throughout NSW.

Economic benefits:

Across the life of the mine, Wallarah 2 will drive more than \$600 million annually both directly and indirectly via regional output (i.e. business turnover) into the Central Coast local community.

In the 28 years of operation, the mine will increase household income across the Central Coast by close to \$80 million annually, contributing more than \$380 million per year in regional added value.

Walarah 2 Coal Project

Government Royalties:

The Project is estimated to make a substantial contribution to regional, state and federal Government revenue bases, paying corporate taxation and royalty benefits amounting to \$1.58 billion undiscounted value over the 28 year life of the mine.

Water catchments:

Extensive and stringent site assessments and studies reveal that the surrounding water catchments, including the Wyong River, will be protected from any adverse impacts as a result of the mining development.

Wallarah 2 Community Foundation



The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation was established earlier this year to provide vital funding to worthwhile projects and initiatives which benefit the local community.

With applications now closed, a total of nine grants will be presented to organisations which assist or benefit the environment, community wellbeing or education outcomes within the Wyong LGA.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation is proud to support programs and initiatives that foster positive outcomes for the Wyong Shire in the areas of sustainability, community wellbeing and education.

The first cheque was presented to Wyong District Museum and Historic Society on 3 June. The donation of \$3500 will assist in building and expanding community gardens, cultivation areas and purchasing two new water tanks.

As an important part of the community, many of the volunteers who come to help on the property, especially in the gardens, are young people from Job Centre Australia, who find the opportunity to contribute to the museum a wonderful and often life-changing experience.

However, sadly in December of 2011 the Alison Homestead heritage building on the property was burnt down by an arsonist, completely

destroying a large part of the building. In helping to rebuild the surrounding property, Wallarah 2's donation will plant the seed to grow new hope from the ashes.

Peter Smith of Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "The volunteers who run the Wyong District Museum and Historic Society play a critical role in safeguarding the heritage of this area.

"It is an absolute pleasure to be able to offer much needed funds to support those working to recapture the history of Wyong, preserving all that is here for everyone in the community to enjoy".

Roman Paull and Greg Denning, volunteers at the museum for close to seven years, were hugely grateful for the funding from Wallarah 2. "This piece of land is the birthplace of Wyong. We need to embrace our history" said Greg.

"The money will help extend our gardens and cultivation areas, generating ongoing funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the property. The funds donated by Wallarah 2 will also go towards water tanks, enabling us to be self sufficient in maintaining our gardens.

"It also means we can once again embrace the volunteers from Job Centre Australia who get so much enjoyment from tending to our Community Gardens," said Roman.

Community Advocate



Wallarrah 2 is pleased to be supporting Community Advocates, a locally run charity servicing the Central Coast. Wallarah 2 will provide Community Advocates a dedicated area where they can safely store stock to be used across their programs, which provide practical assistance to those in need in the community.

Peter Smith from the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "It is rewarding to be able to support those in the community who work tirelessly to make a real difference to locals who are in need".

Community Advocates is a not for profit organisation committed to providing practical assistance, support and education to the marginalised and disadvantaged.

Founded in February 2011 by Georgia Thomas and Fiona Crain, the organisation which is run entirely from community support, now services more than 30 local crisis and aid organisations.

Speaking with Fiona Crain about Wallarah 2's support she revealed, "We would have been a 'homeless' charity if Wallarah 2 hadn't come to the rescue.

The space we had been using was no longer available and if it hadn't been for the

community-minded nature of Wallarah 2, we truly would have had nowhere to store all the items that are so crucial to those in need".

Community Advocates run a range of programs to assist those who are vulnerable and in need. Many of the items stored at Wallarah 2 offices include new clothing, footwear, toiletries, distraction toys for children, cleaning products, linen and blankets.

"As a charity entirely dependent on our volunteers and on the kindness and generosity of the community. We are so grateful for the opportunity Wallarah 2 have given us. They have allowed us to continue our vital work within our community. We are all about community - working together to assist those in need," said Fiona.

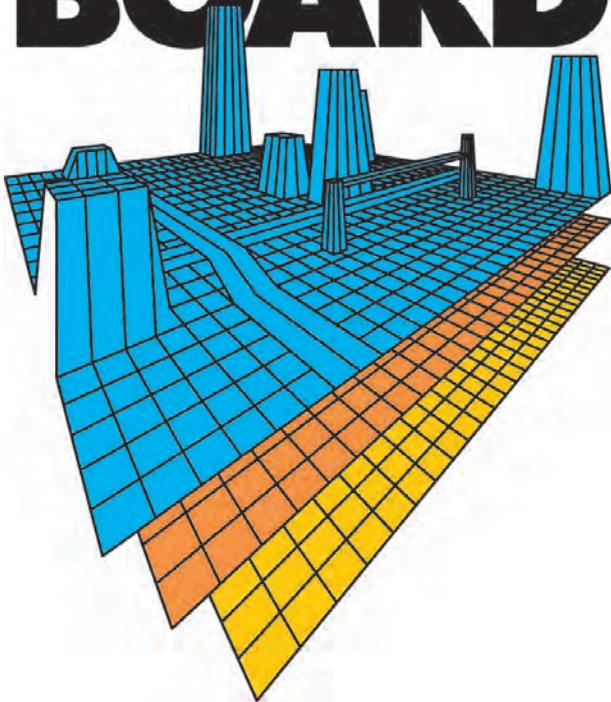
Community Advocates welcome any donations from the community. The items most in need are new warm blankets and doonas, new children's clothes in all sizes, cleaning products as well as new towels and linen.

"We ask that all donations are new as this allows us to build confidence and provide those we assist with new items to help them start again. We run off the premise that you do what you can with what you've got, so anything the community can donate, no matter how small, goes to helping us make a difference", added Fiona.

For more information visit facebook.com/internationalcommunityadvocates. To make a donation contact Fiona Crain on 0402 919 693.

The Mine Subsidence Board: Protecting your home

MINE SUBSIDENCE BOARD



Subsidence can be an unknown process and an issue of concern for local residents whose homes are located above underground mining operations.

Fortunately, the Mine Subsidence Board is in place to ease some of this concern and ensure that you and your family are adequately compensated in the unlikely event that any damage occurs to your property as a result of subsidence.

What is the Mine Subsidence Board?

The Mine Subsidence Board is a service operating for communities in coal mining

areas of New South Wales and is responsible for administering the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act.

The Act provides for compensation or repair services where houses, fixtures or other erections are damaged by mine subsidence resulting from the extraction of coal.

The Board is also responsible for eliminating public and private danger caused by mine subsidence and provides a comprehensive and accessible advisory and technical service.

The Board also contributes to the planning process by ensuring that new houses and structures in declared Mine Subsidence Districts are designed and constructed with future subsidence in mind.

This is the case for the mining area of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project which will operate within in the Hue Hue Mine Subsidence District declared 28 years ago and Wyong Mine Subsidence District declared 16 years ago.

How can I find out more information about the Mine Subsidence Board?

The Board offers a free advisory service to members of the public. Whether it is an enquiry generally about coal mine subsidence or a more detailed query about construction or design, the Board's staff can assist you.

Visit www.minesub.nsw.gov.au for more information or contact the Board's Wyong District Office on 02) 4352 1646.

Community Consultation Sessions at Wallarah 2 Offices

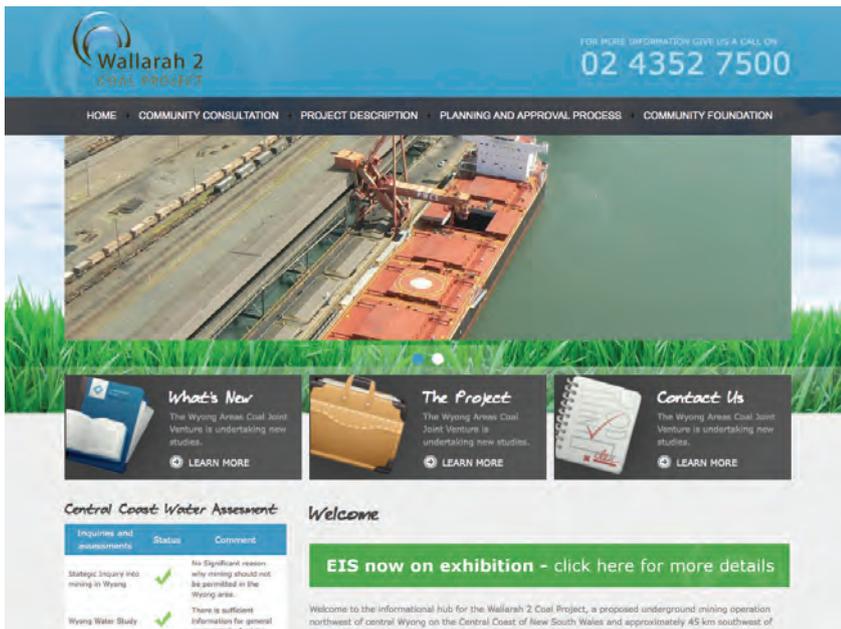


As mentioned in our last newsletter and in newspaper advertisements, in May and June, Wallarah 2 ran a number of Community

Consultation Sessions as part of the public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). However, members of the community still have the opportunity to come and join us in our offices to voice any feedback and find out more about the Project.

Our Community Consultation Sessions are just one part of Wallarah 2's commitment to ongoing communication and transparency and are designed to provide a forum in which interested parties can talk with representatives and learn about how the Project seeks to benefit the Central Coast community.

Walarah 2 website – a hub for information



We hope you find this newsletter informative but as always we welcome your inquiries and comments.

Our website contains extensive information about the Wallarah 2 Coal Project. Make sure you visit our website at www.walarah.com.au.

Our offices are at 25 Bryant Drive Tuggerah and you are most welcome to visit, but it is advisable to telephone first to ensure the person who can best help is available.

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