

# Peak Iron Mines Mid-Year Newsletter June 2022

## **Acknowledgment of Country**

*Peak Iron Mines acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*



**Peculiar Knob Mine – Road-train and Haul Road**

## **A message from the CEO!**

Welcome to Peak Iron Mines Mid-Year Newsletter – a brief snapshot of what's taken place in the latter part of 2021 and first six months of 2022.

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge the tenacity and community spirit shown by everyone in the far north region of South Australia during what was a saturating start to 2022. The floods and disruption to infrastructure and supplies, as well as the ongoing impacts of Covid, affected every community and operation in the region, including Peak Iron, which continued to operate and provide support as best we could.

On a mining front, while the Peculiar Knob operation continued, the Buzzard PEPR was granted approval in February 2022 with construction commencing in May 2022. Construction of the Windy Valley Accommodation Camp to house the Buzzard workforce is also almost complete, all of it generating employment in South Australia.

On a community front, several events were supported in Glendambo and Coober Pedy, including the Annual Xmas Meeting/Dinner 2021 and Kan̄ku-Breakaways Conservation Park Marathon, while initiatives were taken by Peak Iron and contractor personnel to observe and respect the significance of National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our communities, stakeholders, Native Title holders, and pastoral lease holders for your assistance and cooperation, and look forward to working alongside you as we head into this exciting new chapter at Peak Iron Mines.

Marnus Bothma



## **Sponsorships and Donations**

Peak Iron Mines is committed to supporting the communities located in the region within which we operate.

In 2021 - 2022, we were happy to provide sponsorship and donations towards several community initiatives including:

- Kingoonya Progress Association – Annual Christmas Tree General Meeting/Dinner 2021
- Uniting Country SA – International Women's Day Lunch (Breaking the Bias!)
- Kan̄ku-Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Board – Marathon
- Coober Pedy Retail Business & Tourism Association Inc – Coober Pedy Opal Festival
- Coober Pedy Clontarf Academy.



**Glendambo Lake!! (February 2022)**

## Stories from our community!

### Coober Pedy Retail Business & Tourism Association Inc – Opal Festival

The Coober Pedy Opal Festival, which will take place from 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022, is an annual event bringing together local and regional communities to celebrate everything that is unique about Coober Pedy and the opal industry.

Incorporating a street parade, food and beverages, craft and market stalls, games and entertainment, the festival will appeal to all ages in the Coober Pedy community.

Peak Iron Mines is happy to sponsor such an initiative and looks forward to joining the Coober Pedy community in their celebrations.



Coober Pedy, Opal City (Photo: Tegan Stehbens, Environmental Officer, Peak Iron)



Peculiar Knob sunrise (Photo: Neil Page)

### Coober Pedy Clontarf Academy

Peak Iron Mines is a proud sponsor of the Coober Pedy Clontarf Academy, which opened in Term 3, 2021.

While Covid presented some challenges, there was a marked improvement in the attendance, absence notification and family engagement of the Year 4-6 students, who drew on Clontarf values to develop their leadership skills.

Led by their hardworking director, Michael Hall, and operations officer, Nathan Nistico, the Clontarf students participated in various activities including:

- a Mable Creek property visit where yabbies were caught;
- taking ownership of unused school garden beds, and planting and tending to plants/vegetables;
- attending regular 6am sports training sessions;
- collecting recyclables and raising money for charity;
- removing bags of rubbish from in and around the Coober Pedy community;
- hosting a family dinner; and
- providing their families with photos and stories of their achievements. *\*Source: Clontarf Academy 2021 End of Year Report.*

Well done to all staff and students involved in the Coober Pedy Clontarf Academy!

We wish all students continued success in their personal and academic endeavours. *\*Photos courtesy of Michael Hall, Director of Coober Pedy Clontarf Academy.*



Michael Hall (Clontarf Director) and SJ (Clontarf student) completing the Kanku-Breakaways Marathon (Photo: Maria Fantasia, Stakeholder Manager, Peak Iron)





**Clontarf students catching yabbies at Mabel Creek!**



**Enjoying early morning basketball training.**



**Collecting recyclables in and around Coober Pedy community.**



**Donating the funds from recycling to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.**



**Unused garden beds in the Coober Pedy Area School grounds have been brought back to life!**



**Clontarf students carrying out community service by collecting rubbish in and around the community.**



## **Kingoonya Progress Association – Annual Christmas Tree General Meeting and Dinner 2021**

“The 2021 Christmas Tree General Meeting and Dinner took place at the Glendambo Gymkhana grounds on 11<sup>th</sup> December, to a crowd of buzzing kids and relaxed adults.

As many pastoral properties were still recovering from the long-term impacts of the 2017-2020 drought, it’s difficult to ask families to contribute financially.

This year, Peak Iron’s sponsorship contributed towards running costs for the annual Christmas catchup of the local northwest pastoral community. Funds provided: Xmas decorations, fresh seafood, drinks for young and old, and gifts from Santa for the children. Thank you, Peak Iron.” – *\*Report and photos courtesy of Petie Rankin (President, Glendambo Gymkhana) and Lynly Kerin (President, North-West ICPA).*



**Xmas spread at the annual catchup in Glendambo...**



**Gifts for the children from Santa!**



**Happy children!**



**Happy adults!!**

## International Women's Day (Breaking the Bias!)

"Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together, we can forge women's equality. Collectively, we can all **#BreakTheBias.**"

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022, the Coober Pedy "Sisters" group held the annual an International Women's Day Event, masterfully presided over by Jacqui Boland, Coober Pedy's Australian Citizen of the Year.



Welcome!  
To Coober Pedy's IWD Event 2022!



The fabulous cake, thanks to  
CK Confectionaire Bakery...

The "Sisters" group is a network of women across Coober Pedy – including young mothers with babies and women from LGBTQ+ backgrounds – who work on issues around domestic and family violence and abuse. After two years of challenges, isolation, financial hardships, floods from record breaking rain in the region, and disruption to services and supplies due to road closures, approximately 100 women gathered to raise their voices for a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination against women.

The dress code this year was "**BOLD**", with many women, including our ambulance officer, who's never been seen out of uniform, looking absolutely stunning! Peak Iron Mines once again generously supported the event, which included lunch, a fashion parade, bingo, and a presentation by Peak Iron representative, Maria Fantasia.

Maria spoke movingly on the topic of DV, which saw some women remove themselves as it really hit home. After speaking with the women separately, I learned they'd never dealt with the pain they'd endured as young victims of family violence. I encouraged each of them to seek support in the hope of easing the mental burden they've carried for too long.

The presentation was followed by a scrumptious lunch thanks to CK Confectionaire Bakery for the mouth-watering cuisine and fabulous cake (which they've been baking for us since 2009!); Outback Bar & Grill who kindly donated four delicious salads; and Oxiana who generously donated five large trays of yummy desserts.

Lunch was followed by a sassy and fun fashion parade narrated by Leah Pantelis (who also organized the gorgeous models) and thanks to Zara (Chique Boutique) who provided the **BOLD** attire.

To round off a wonderful afternoon, bingo (using our own bingo machine, thanks to Peak Iron!) was enjoyed with high anticipation,

lots of laughs, and lots of prize winning! Thank you to the Old Timer's Mine, Big Winch, Black Rhino Group, Carter's Retail IGA, Cellarbrations, JAM'D Opals, and Lize Lee Hairdressing for generously donating the bingo prizes.

In future, the "Sisters" group intends to hold regular bingo games at one of the clubs in town as a social outing for community members.



The sassy models!

Finally, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the following: the Croatian Club for offering their excellent community venue; Oz Minerals for donating RATS, masks and sanitizer; Roz for making the non-alcoholic punch; Melissa Brave and Razz Jones (Dusty Radio) for volunteering so much of their time on Saturday to set up all the electrical equipment and ensuring fabulous music to set the vibe on Sunday; the "Sisters" group for volunteering their time and muscles to set up on Saturday; Umoona Child Care Centre for donating childcare for mums attending the event; Uniting Country SA for donating the beautiful purple roses that decorated the tables; and to the **BOLD** and fabulous women who came to celebrate the strength, resilience and tenacity of the "sisters" in Coober Pedy." – *\*Report and photos courtesy of Julie Hammermeister (organizer).*







Jacqui (MC) and Leah (fashion parade narrator)



So much fabulous food!!



Melissa and Razz from Dusty Radio



Julie Hammermeister at the IWD Event with some of the "sisters" of Coober Pedy.



More fabulous "sisters" of Coober Pedy!



"Sisters" enjoying the IWD Event!



Thank you to all the "sisters" who set up and celebrated the women of Coober Pedy!



# Project Update!

## Peculiar Knob



**Peculiar Knob resident – Arnold the lizard...  
(Photo: Tegan Stehbens)**

Firstly, we'd like to say farewell and thank you to Neil Page (Site Security) who finished up with Peak Iron at the end of 2021, and welcome James Nagel (Mine Manager) and Matt Nicol (Site Security) to the Peak Iron team at Peculiar Knob. We wish you all the best in your new roles.

On the mining operation front, while the big wet in February slowed down production, recovery efforts have been implemented by Agile Mining Services (contractor), including improvements to the mine site access road.

On the employment front, Agile welcomed three new apprentices to their workforce – Dylan, Jack and Curtley – who will be supported by MEGT (Australia) Ltd (Apprentice Network Provider).

Well done to Monique Smith (Agile Liaison Officer) for working hard behind the scenes to make Agile's procurement initiatives come to fruition. Peak Iron wishes the new apprentices every success.

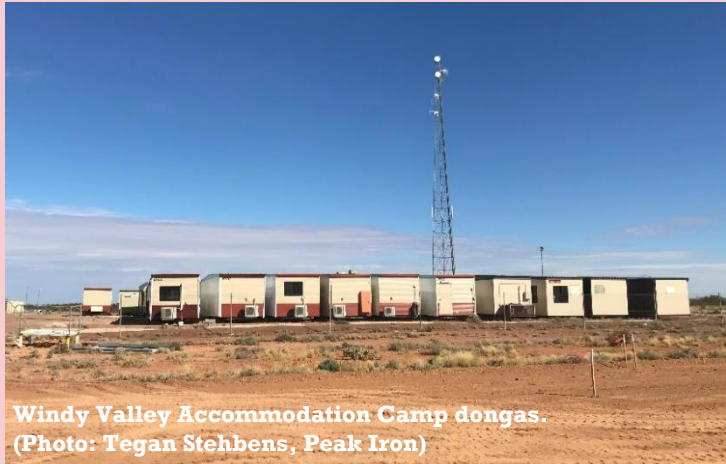


**John Kaminski (MEGT), Curtley Warren (2<sup>nd</sup> year diesel mechanic), Dylan Muscat-Gaston (1<sup>st</sup> year diesel mechanic), Jack Crute (1<sup>st</sup> year auto electrician), Monique Smith (Agile Liaison Officer)**

## Buzzard Project

We would like to welcome Lindsay Lawler (Buzzard Project Manager) and Bob Murdoch (Logistics Manager) to the Peak Iron team. Lindsay will oversee the construction and operation of the Buzzard Project while Bob will oversee logistics. We wish you every success in your new roles.

The Windy Valley Camp accommodation, which will support the Buzzard Project workforce, is nearing practical completion with personnel expected to move in from early July.



**Windy Valley Accommodation Camp dongas.  
(Photo: Tegan Stehbens, Peak Iron)**

As for the Buzzard mine site, perimeter fencing and cattle grid installation are underway to effectively delineate the mine site from pastoral land. Preliminary development works consist of topsoil and subsoil stripping, and stockpiling will commence in June along with construction of infrastructure pads.

Construction of the Buzzard mine access road intersection onto the Stuart Highway is targeted to commence in July and Peak Iron is actively looking to recruit personnel for the mine site Operations Team. Other works include ongoing ground water monitoring and turkey nest construction.

Thank you to pastoral lease holders and Native Title Holders for your cooperation re: this new venture for Peak Iron Mines.



**Sunshine at Buzzard (Photo: Maria Fantasia, Peak Iron)**



## Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Board - Marathon

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022, the Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Board in partnership with Peak Iron Mines, Coober Pedy Council, and government of South Australia, and supported by Oz Minerals, Complete Personnel, Umoona Mine and Museum, Qube, Sodexo, and CK Confectionaire, held the Kanku-Breakaways Marathon.

With almost 150 entrants from across Australia and as far as the United Kingdom, participating by either walking, running or bike riding, the event showcased the magnificent Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park and vibrant community spirit of Coober Pedy.

While running a marathon wasn't in our job description, Peak Iron entered a team of eight participants – the “Peaky Ironers” – who ran or sauntered (at a leisurely pace!) for 10kms, enjoying and admiring the serenity of AM-Y Nation munda (country).

Thanks must go to Brian Haddy (Coordinator) for organising a most successful and enjoyable day, and all the volunteers for helping!



**Peaky Ironers with Auntie Maureen: (standing – from left to right) James, Bob, Charlie, Rob, Matt, Auntie Maureen (centre), Maria; (kneeling) Diona, Lindsay, Tegan.**



**Peaky Ironer: Lindsay (Buzzard Mine Manager)**



**Peaky Ironer: Tegan (Environmental Officer)**



**Maria walking with Evan (behind) and SJ (front) (Clontarf Academy students)**



**Children's bike race about to start!**



**Children's running race. And they're off!!!**



## Celebrating Aboriginal culture and heritage



### National Sorry Day

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – National Sorry Day – we acknowledge the significance of the anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report, tabled in the Australian Parliament in 1997.

National Sorry Day reminds us of the history of forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, which gave rise to the Stolen Generation. On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008, (then) Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, offered a national apology.

In keeping with agreed principles of building a stronger relationship with our Native Title Holders (AMYAC) and Aboriginal communities:

- *tjunguringanyi* (coming together);
- *pulkurin-ganyi* (learning);
- *tjukurat* (strong);
- *iwaru* (walking together); and
- *ngarpartji ngarpartji* (reciprocity),

Peak Iron Mines recognises and supports the significance and importance of National Sorry Day.

### Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Week – 27<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June – is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us may contribute towards reconciliation in Australia.

Peak Iron Mines and contractor personnel were invited to learn more about Australia's past; in particular, two historical events that addressed past injustices and inequalities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since colonization.

#### 27<sup>th</sup> May 1967 – Referendum

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1967, a referendum enabled Australians to vote for change to the Constitution. This change saw the removal of clauses that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, finally recognising them as part of the Australian population and enabling the Commonwealth government to make laws directly addressing the impacts of inequality and injustice.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1992 – Eddie Mabo and Native Title

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1992, Eddie Mabo, a Mer (Murray) Island man, successfully proved in the High Court of Australia that his people were connected to, and had occupation of, the island on which he was born. This saw the abolishment of the British notion that Australia was an empty land – *terra nullius*.

The *Mabo* decision led to the passing of the *Native Title Act* in 1993, enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have rights to, and interests in, certain land because of their traditional laws and customs.

### Signing off from the team at Peak Iron Mines...



“The Knob” – Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara country  
(Photo: Charlie Herzberg, Security Officer, Peak Iron Mines)