

Industry Today

Our local industries supporting our local communities



Energy takes centre stage

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Advance Rockhampton's Wade Clarke with Patrice Brown, of CQG, and Jack Trenaman, of SMW.



Dave Grenfell, chair of ATQLD, and Arty Stokes from Stokes Mining.

CQIC comes together

By the Central Queensland Industry Collaborative

Friday, 2 September, saw the CQIC (Central Queensland Industry Collaborative) conduct another information session addressing issues and important topics.

Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga gave the room a brief overview of the newly formed State Governments 2022 – 2023 Workforce Strategy.

This initiative can be found by going to the qld.gov.au/workforcestrategy link which provides a more detailed explanation of the plan.

Our other presenter was David Grenfell who is the chair of ATQLD and one of the major drivers of the CQIC group.

Below you can read his plan to address one of the issues identified by CQIC and start the ball rolling by putting a program in place that will enhance the capacity and capability of our workforce and assist with the prosperity of our region.

PEPP - The proposed solution: increase regional skills, capacity & capability

Region Development

The Rockhampton Ring Road will require significant amounts of precast materials valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Further to this project other major projects in the region North South and West will also require precast concrete products:

- 235 x Bridge deck units (precast)
- 1,042 x TeeRoff bridge beams
- 138 Concrete precast pilings
- 4200 road culverts, precast pipework
- Impediment to capacity and capability.

Currently, there is limited capacity to meet supply needs for the Rockhampton Ring Road and other major projects due in our region. Three local facilities - Humes, Stresscrete, and ARC - are critical to the Fitzroy region's precast



Stresscrete's Craig and Fiona Zinn and Advance Rockhampton's Mary Ryan.

manufacturing and infrastructure construction. Based on the major projects due in the region over the next five years, the combined current capacity of these companies is approximately 35 per cent of the future demand. Therefore, a considerable percentage of product required by major projects in the region could be lost to our region and be provided from outside of the region.

This means lost revenue for the region, and

increased cost for local projects. If we cannot supply the required quantity of products, Tier 1 construction companies may have no choice but to set up their own facilities. This has occurred during past major projects, where local and regional precast supply chain businesses become competitors for the same workforce. History shows the negative impacts on local, established precast facilities; they lose their workforce, which reduces their capacity and

subsequently erodes their customer base.

While these three companies can increase capacity and capability, they need support from Industry and government to implement initiatives that will deliver improved capacity outcomes. If provided with the right support, our local precast manufacturing supply chain can increase capacity and capability to supply a larger percentage of this product using local skills and labour.



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NBN community engagement manager Mick Allen with Robyn Lock and Zane Kellaher.



AJ from Mates in Construction and Dean Phillips, regional manager of Master Builders.



ATQLD CEO Michael Walz and engagement manager of CSQ, Paul Tydd.



Keppel MP Britany Lauga delivering the State Government's Workforce Strategy.

PEPP Project Statement.

The PEPP Program was developed by Apprentice Training Qld as a collaborative training program across three local businesses ARC, Humes, Stresscrete, using their facilities for the training, with support from CQIC (Central Queensland Industry Collaborative), Local Jobs Program, Dept of Regional Development and Manufacture and CSQ.

The PEPP program was developed to solve the local supply chains greatest impediment to economic development. Labour and Skill shortages and retention of current workforce are the top 3 three impediments for our local Precast supply chain. The PEPP project will 'Develop regional skills to build capacity and secure local jobs for major projects' (PEPP) will upskill locals and increase the labour pool for the local precast industry and similar business in our region and its supply chain.

With increased capacity and capability, the precast supply chain will be able to increase the local supply of the required precast product for major projects in the region. It will provide a successful model to deliver similar programs across other industry sectors and can be replicated across multiple businesses and industries. It is scalable allowing different size businesses to replicate the program. PEPP will enable a pipeline of employable locals with new skills that provide multiple career paths and pathways to multiple industry sectors and secure employment.

With funding from Governments, the innovative and collaborative project will help solve local workforce issues, enabling the delivery of a similar program that can be replicated by other industries.

It has the potential to move local companies to become the major manufacturing and

supply hub for precast for all major projects in the region.

Project concept.

The solution is to build a workforce to increase precast manufacturing capacity in the region; training in industry by industry for industry.

The proposed program will increase skills in the Rockhampton region to increase the employment pool for the local precast supply chain. This will help them to increase capacity and capability by December 2022 so the region can realise opportunities from the Rockhampton Ring Road and future major infrastructure projects.

As part of a 3-stage program, the Pilot project will commence the process to provide a pipeline of Cert II qualified persons for the manufacturing and construction industries (Cert II in Construction Pathways (CPC-COM1012).

The training program is a collaboration between the three local precast supply chain companies, to train 15 people by December 2022. The program is scalable with future potential to increase trainee numbers after the pilot program is completed.

The region will then have a precast manufacturing training program which supports increasing capacity and capability of the precast manufacturing hub to meet future infrastructure needs.

Multi-stage project.

A pilot program which will initially provide 24 trainees an opportunity to re-join the workforce. The intention is to use the model to gain industry support to provide 96 new workers to the precast industry within 1 year and increase our precast local capacity to become the precast manufacturing hub for Central Queensland.



Federal Capricornia MP Michelle Landry joined with the like-minded businesses attending.

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Key speakers at the 2021 GEA Conference Hydrogen Forum.

Picture: GLADSTONE ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

Highlighting possibilities

The Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) Major Industry and Energy Conference is highly regarded as the key forum for current and future work opportunities and the diversification to hydrogen in the Central Queensland region.

The Conference, presented by Aestec Services, will take centre stage at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre (GECC) on October 6 and 7, 2022.

The two-day event will shine a light on exciting and upcoming industry projects as well as the transition to renewable energy.

The Gladstone Region is well placed for growth and diversification and has a long-standing history as an Industrial powerhouse. The region is home to some of the largest processing and manufacturing industries in central Queensland.

Energy is a crucial component of modern

society and Gladstone is known as the power hub of Queensland with three baseload coal-fired power stations.

Day one of the conference provides delegates with the opportunity to hear from industry leaders, about existing and upcoming projects and opportunities to facilitate regional development and economic growth.

Following the conference on day one is the GEA Industry Awards and Gala Dinner starting at 6:30pm.

judging panel made up of industry leaders and stakeholders.

The winners will be announced at the Industry Awards and Gala Dinner on Thursday 6 October at the GECC.

Day two of the conference will focus on the transition to renewable energy. The Queensland Government's target to achieve 50&percent; of energy from renewable sources by 2030 provides stakeholders the opportunity to invest in renewable energy in the Gladstone Region. There are a number of renewable energy projects under development that will support industry diversification in the Gladstone Region.

With Gladstone declared as a national Energy hub presenters will provide an overview of the unique opportunity the region has to be a key player in achieving the Government targets.

Peter Masters, GEA's General Manager said GEA is working closely with existing Industry and meeting regularly with new proponents, looking to invest in the Region.

"Discussions are held around the issues and opportunities facing CQ and the vital role GEA plays in connecting larger industry and SME's through promoting GEA member capabilities," Peter Masters, GEA's General Manager said.

"The Industry and Energy Conference offers attendee, stakeholder, and presenter networking to further facilitate these conversations."

To be a part of the opportunities and supply chain conversations purchase all your tickets from one location, gea.asn.au/events, or phone GEA on 4972 9060.

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CCOC tours Holcim quarry

By the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce

Small business is a big deal to the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce, and we are always looking out for our local businesses and members.

On Wednesday 31 August, Phil Henry (President), Tanya Paul (Treasurer) and Robyn Lock (Events) were invited to the Holcim quarry at Nerimbera to see firsthand the proposed expansion for the quarry site.

Victoria Musgrove (Planning Lead) and Darren Dunn (Quarry Manager) provided the Chamber committee members with a short presentation followed by a guided tour around the site.

This quarry has been in operation since the 1960s, supplying hard rock to help build and maintain major infrastructure, housing and local construction works throughout Rockhampton Regional Council and Livingstone Shire Council.

While their key partnerships include the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Rail, with Humes, which Holcim own, in Rockhampton to facilitate the precast concrete requirements.

As the Central Queensland region continues to expand with major infrastructure projects, as well as local residential, commercial and other developments. It's important to remember these plans will all require high quality quarry materials.

Holcim is positioned, ready for their proposed extension to secure the long-term supply of this material from the Nerimbera Quarry.

To date, Victoria, Darren and the local Holcim team haven't been working hard behind the scenes to make sure their proposed extension meets all the legislative requirements as well as engaging the local community to discuss what more they can be doing to support the region and minimise any major disruptions.

The Chamber continually advocates for



Capricornia Chamber of Commerce Phil Henry (President), Tanya Paul (Treasurer) and Robyn Lock (Events) were invited to the Holcim quarry at Nerimbera with Holcims Victoria Musgrove (Planning Lead) and Darren Dunn (Quarry Manager).

more local input which is key to supporting economic growth and developments in our region. Holcim are always on the lookout for additional supply and collaboration opportunities, both big and small, and so the Chamber encourages local business to consider these opportunities.

Also, currently, there are three employment

opportunities available with training and a family friendly roster.

For more information, please contact the Quarry Manager, Darren Dunn, for more information during business hours on 0419 477 700 or darren.dunn@holcim.com.

Holcim are currently finalising all their modeling and testing of the proposed extension

with documents ready to be submitted this month. Local businesses have been engaged in facilitating this development and are keen to see the site grow into the future.

The Capricornia Chamber will be inviting Victoria and Darren to host an information session with our members early in the new year to provide an update.



The quarry, which is set for expansion, has been in operation since the 1960s.



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Qld jobs market buoyant



The Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force data shows that Queensland unemployment rate fell to 3.2 per cent in August. This was a fall of 0.5 per cent from July and an extra 1,400 jobs were created in August.

In Central Queensland the unemployment rate is 3.4 per cent. Our employment rate is 77.9 per cent alongside a high participation rate of 67.9 per cent, demonstrating that our regional workforce is engaged and keen to work.

We are continuing to see recruitment difficulties in the region, with demand far outweighing supply.

The National Skills Commission report that the recruitment difficulty rate in August was 74 per cent, up 22 percentage points on August 2021.

Data from the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) reported that job vacancies in Central Queensland jumped up 37 per cent in July 2022 compared to July 2021.

So, while we may have an engaged workforce, and growing participation rate, the number of job vacancies is growing much faster than available workers.

Interestingly, RAI data also shows that the current demand for workers exceeds that associated with mining boom a decade ago.

The peak of 59,100 regional job vacancies in 2011 was largely driven by construction and mining, and vacancies were mostly centred across the mining states.

However, today's boom, peaking at 86,900 regional job vacancies in July 2022, is widespread across the county, with the strongest demand being for professionals and skilled workers.

The roles in highest demand in Central Queensland are by far automotive and engineering trade workers, followed by medical practitioners and nurses (source Internet Vacancy Index).



Supply and demand depicts the state of the Queensland job market.

This is supported by our experience at Jobs In Central Queensland, with 42 per cent of our job vacancies dedicated to engineering and trades.

For Central Queensland this means that we have to compete nationally to attract workers to our region.

We now find ourselves in the position of not only recruiting to fill job vacancies, but also marketing the region and lifestyle in order to entice candidates our way.

Although money is the most important component of most candidates' criteria, they also have high expectations around live-ability and fulfillment.

As such, the team at Jobs In Central Queensland, are adapting our approach, to meet current labour market conditions and candidate aspirations, to the extent that we find ourselves becoming ambassadors for the region.

Jobs and Skills Summit

The federal government's jobs and skill sum-

mit at the start of September was widely well-received and there is positivity about a collaborative approach to working on the challenges and opportunities in the labour market. In their published summit outcomes, the government's key objectives of full employment and growing productivity, focuses on women's participation and equality alongside reducing barriers to employment. For regional Australia, the summit suggested that education and skilled migration are key to addressing our labour shortages.

This is line with the Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032, which states that Queensland will need an extra 280,000 workers in the four years 2024-2025. The strategy vision of 'A strong and diverse workforce ready to seize today's jobs and adapt to future opportunities' will have three action plans delivered by a collaboration of industry, business, communities and government.

Education, migration and diversity are all key aspects in addressing the current skills shortage.

Training our local high school graduates and upskilling existing workers in our regional jobs of the future will certainly plug some gaps. In particular, I feel strongly that we need to identify barriers to employment and implement real solutions to overcome them. In this regard, migration and diversity sit very closely together. Where we are able to fill positions with migrant workers, they very often bring with them to our community, their immediate family. Of course, they are often professional or skilled workers in their own right but often face barriers to joining our workforce due to our own lack of infrastructure to support them. Once we can resolve our issues around housing, childcare and healthcare, our participation rates will increase as those otherwise stay at home Mums and Dads have the support structure in place to allow them to enter the workforce.

For more information and insights about local job opportunities and recruitment support visit JobsInCentralQueensland.net.au

Time to throw a line: River a drawcard for keen fishers

By Greg Bowden, Advance Rockhampton executive manager

With the weather heating up and the end of Barramundi season looming, the Fitzroy River is a hive of activity.

As the lead economic development agency in Central Queensland, Advance Rockhampton continue to work with industry to ensure we take advantage of all the opportunities associated with Fishing the Fitzroy and the wider region.

It was great to see so many participants in

the Women That Fish Classic, and the Barra Bash is just around the corner with more than \$80,000 in prizes up for grabs in October. Rockhampton is set to come alive with boaties on the water chasing the illusive Barramundi.

Anglers can also get excited in November with the chance to win \$10,000 with the Fishing the Fitzroy's \$10k Thready competition.

From an Industry perspective, the Rockhampton Recreational Fishing Development Strategy is almost accomplished with 97% of the projects completed or in progress.

It's very encouraging to see works now well underway on the Inkerman Creek boat ramp which is set to provide better access for boaties.

The brand-new facility will be sheltered and have plenty of car parks available.

And, with \$8 million in joint government funding, works on the additional dual-lane ramp at Casuarina Creek are on the horizon.

Luring recreational anglers to the region is also a priority for Rockhampton Regional Council and it has also now reached new

heights, with Helifish CQ taking off.

The new locally operated business plans to provide packages to secret secluded spots, offering a never-before-seen experience.

There's a wide range of charter experiences on offer when fishing the Fitzroy, including boat hire options for those flying into the region. With over 300 days of sunshine year-round Rockhampton really is a fishing destination to put on your radar.

To find out more about fishing in the region visit www.fishingthefitzroy.com.au

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A scenic view of a river with a large steel truss bridge in the background. In the foreground, a small blue boat with several people is on the water. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Qld tax damns coal 'gold'

A new report released has found the State Government has severely underestimated the impact of higher royalty taxes on Queensland's coal export sector.

The report by independent analysts Commodity Insights was commissioned by the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) to review the impact of the government's decision to add three new coal tax tiers - with significantly higher royalty rates - to the previous regime.

According to the report:

"The royalty revenue forecasts from Treasury are based on extremely conservative and unrealistic, in our opinion coal price forecasts. As a result, they massively understate the revenue collection by the government and the cost impost placed on the sector. The royalties also clearly reduce the competitiveness of the Queensland coal export sector relative to its competitors by sharply increasing the cost structure."

The Commodity Insights analysis confirms Queensland is the rank outlier in the world in terms of coal royalty rates, with its new top rate of 40 per cent now 43 per cent higher than the next nearest rate of 28 per cent, which is nearly four times higher than the average highest rate globally.

The report found the new top royalty rate for metallurgical coal, by far Queensland's most valuable export, is now 2.7 times higher than the nearest competitor and almost five times the global average, confirming widespread industry alarm at the new tax rates is well justified.

QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the government's move to suddenly double the amount of tax to be paid by coal producers this financial year compared to last year - from \$7.3 billion to Commodity Insight's \$12.4 billion forecast for 2022-23 - has dramatically increased companies' production costs and harmed the industry's ability to compete internationally for customers.

"International commodity prices may be high right now, but as any exporter knows, we need the good times to balance out the bad, when prices are low or even below the cost of production," he said.

"It wasn't that long ago, such as in 2020, that coal prices were below the cost of production and some miners were losing money.

"On top of that, regardless of where coal prices are on any given day, companies' fixed costs like fuel, labour and other consumables are rising every year due to inflation, which is a challenge every business is facing.

"The new royalty regime is another cost impost that will need to be absorbed if Queensland companies are to remain internationally competitive, which means budget cuts will have to be made elsewhere.

"It's pretty simple - resources companies paying higher tax bills have less money to spend on developing new projects or expanding operations, or on rehabilitation programs, upgrading plant and equipment, investing in low emissions technology or employing more people.

"The State Government's cash-grab to bal-



QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane.

ance its own budget hurts local suppliers and employment opportunities, and means companies will also have less money to support charities and sports clubs, which they do very generously."

Mr Macfarlane said the ill-considered move by the Palaszczuk government will hurt regional communities as well as people living in the city - anyone whose jobs and businesses rely on the continuing prosperity of the state's minerals and energy sector.

"BHP has already paused future investment in Queensland as a direct result of the royalty hike, which is shocking in itself," he said.

"The Ambassador of Japan to Australia, His Excellency Yamagami Shingo, has also spoken out about the damage the royalty hike has done to Japan's longstanding trade relationship with Queensland - a concerning development which the government continues to downplay.

"We know companies across the resources sector - not just coal companies - are now seriously considering their future investment options in Queensland.

"The QRC's most recent CEO survey shows Queensland's new royalty tax regime has crushed business confidence and investment and employment plans across all commodities.

"The survey shows the royalty hike has

hurt Queensland gas, base metals and critical minerals projects as well as coal projects.

"When will the State Government admit it's

gone too far with this tax hike and review it, before it does even more damage to an industry that underpins its own state economy?"

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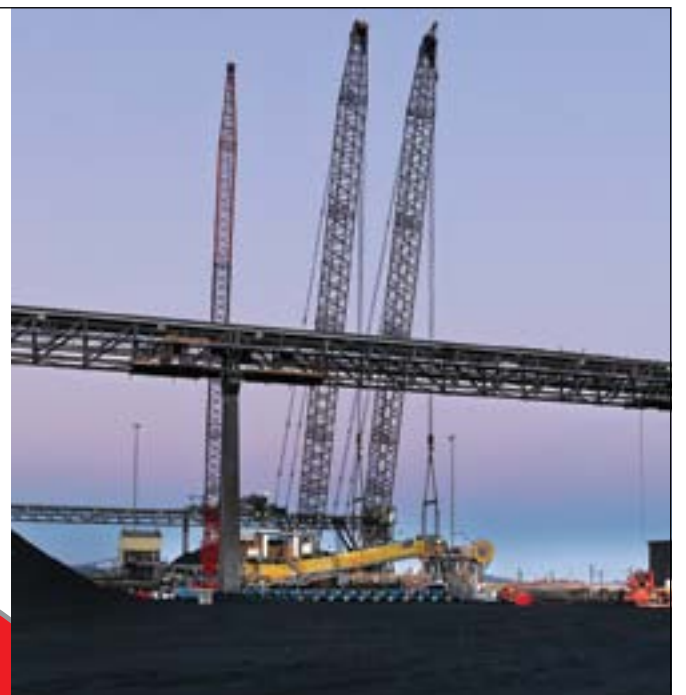
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Director of CMERC Associate Professor Emma Jackson with Japanese delegates, student Takaya Shionoiri and Tokyo University's Professor Masakazu Sugiyama exploring CQU's Gladstone Marina campus. Picture: SUPPLIED



CQUniversity has hosted a Japanese trade convoy aimed at showcasing Central Queensland's potential to become a leader in the production of hydrogen.

Japan keen on transition

A Japanese trade convoy is currently touring Central Queensland to gain an understanding of the natural advantages in green Hydrogen production that the region has to lead the way in energy production and export.

Earlier this month CQUniversity hosted a Japanese trade convoy aimed at showcasing Central Queensland's potential to become a leader in the production of hydrogen and renewable energies.

As part of the activity CQU showcased its facilities, training and skills delivery and research capabilities at its Gladstone Marina campus.

Also hosted, were a group of Japanese master's students as part of the Cooperative

Program for Resources Engineering program which is a post-graduate education jointly established through a collaboration between Hokkaido University and Kyushu University.

The students will spend several weeks in Queensland at several universities, and during their time at CQU they will focus on gaining a thorough understanding of local industry, including spending time at local mines and at the Port of Gladstone.

As part of the trade convoy CQUniversity will also formalise an adjunct professorial appointment with Professor Masakazu Sugiyama of Tokyo University, who is globally renowned as a hydrogen expert and for his energy transition research and advocacy.

It is hoped that the appointment of Professor Sugiyama as a CQU adjunct will help to foster stronger relationships, knowledge sharing and research development, collaborations and exchanges.

Professor Sugiyama has expressed that Gladstone has a number of natural advantages in green Hydrogen production and that the region has the potential to lead the way in the energy transition, production and export.

Associate Vice-President of the CQUniversity Gladstone campus, Mr Luke Sinclair welcomed Professor Sugiyama's adjunct appointment and explained that the appointment and associated trade convoy represented an exciting opportunity to showcase CQU's Gladstone campus facilities and the University's wider capabilities and strategy when it comes to hydrogen and renewable energy.

"The CQUniversity Gladstone campus already has significant infrastructure to support trade training within this space, including the Trades Training Centre and the new School of Manufacturing is in the final stages of construction and fit-out.

"Hydrogen has the potential to be a game changer for Australia, as well as for Central Queensland, with the industry having the potential to generate billions of dollars annually while also creating thousands of jobs," said Mr Sinclair.

"Japan is a clear leader when it comes to research and development in energy transition, so we are excited to establish strong relationships with Japanese industry leaders and innovators."

CQUniversity's Chair of Hydrogen and Renewable Energy, Professor Murray Shearer said that hosting international delegations such as this was a positive step forward in establishing a local hydrogen and renewables industry.

"Central Queensland is a region that has many elements that make it very attractive when it comes to creating a clean energy eco-

system, including the Port of Gladstone, the proximity of large industry, and weather conditions that are suitable for generating clean energy such as wind and solar.

"CQUniversity has a strong strategy when it comes to renewable training and research that positions us as an objective third-party who can do the work for industry when it comes to identifying, testing and applying innovation and then working collaboratively with them to develop and share knowledge when it comes to making, using and selling clean energy," said Professor Shearer.

"CQUniversity also has plans to establish a Hydrogen Training Centre which will complement existing infrastructure on the Gladstone Marina campus and allow us to increase our research and training outputs including foundation skills, electrolyser operation, instrumentation and process control and advanced manufacturing.

"I welcome ongoing interest from international stakeholders who want to learn more about the region and how CQUniversity can play a part in a clean energy industry in Central Queensland."

Tak Adachi, Japanese Trade and Investment Commissioner at Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) was impressed by CQUniversity's vision for supporting the development of a clean energy industry in Gladstone and said that he is supportive of building stronger collaborative links when it comes to research and collaboration.

"Japan is committed to energy transition and exploring international collaborations that will support this," said Mr Adachi.

"We are impressed by CQUniversity's work in this space and its capacity when it comes to research, industry partnership and skills training to support the emergence of new technologies."

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Jeff McIlroy and Taylor Twigg from SLH support the Central Queensland Industry Collaborative.

Hard road to labour hire

By Specialised Labour Hire & Recruitment operations manager Jeff McIlroy

Specialised Labour Hire & Recruitment (SLH) first leased premises at 110 Campbell St, Rockhampton on 15 March 2021.

At this time SLH had no furniture, no computers, or staff and no clients or employees.

'Start ups' are hard, breaking into any established market with established companies, servicing that niche especially in a regional area.... is bloody hard.

I sourced all the above and had my 16-year-old son Alexander assemble everything, who charged me a small fee.

SLH was on the hunt for a consultant, I placed ads in the normal places, had a short list of eight to interview, and found Amanda whose background was logistics with the Red Cross.

We started training together on our new 360 Fasttrack system (which was brilliant then and still is today).

Cold calling new prospect clients and advertising for Labour hire team members now

begins in earnest.

SLH now has qualified crews in Civil, Rail and Mining from Cairns to Brisbane out to Emerald.

With over 300 qualified workers located in five major centres within Queensland, SLH has the ability to source the candidates to meet our client's needs.

By keeping our active list around the three hundred mark ensures that our quality of team members stay at our high standard.

Our clients range from major Tier 1 contractors in Rail Civil & Mining to small businesses in all three genres.

We now have Taylah in the Rockhampton office looking after Rail and Civil, covering Brisbane to Mackay, with Logan in the Mackay office looking after Mining & Civil covering Mackay to Cairns.

We have shared offices in Brisbane and Gladstone, and myself as BDM and operations manager of SLH.

We are growing and expanding in operations and increasing our footprint meeting the needs of new clients every day.



SLH Mackay consultant Logan Templeton.

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Online skills target pests

New online training packages will support good jobs in agriculture by helping more people recognise exotic pests and diseases.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said two new on-line training packages were developed including Hitchhiker Pests, and Nursery Pests and Diseases.

“Increasing global trade and the corresponding movement of pests and diseases means Australians need to be ready to tackle evolving biosecurity risks,” Mr Furner said.

“Hitchhiker pests, as they are known, are pests and weeds that can hitch a ride to Australia in vessels, shipping containers and break-bulk cargo,” Mr Furner said.

“Recent detections of hitchhiker pests such as Khapra beetle in imported goods highlight the importance of recognising incoming threats.

“These pests have the potential for significant impacts including on our environment and way of life.

“The new Hitchhiker Pests online course is aimed at businesses that deal with goods and cargo at critical points along the supply chain, including warehouses, distribution centres, and large retail chains.

“The Nursery Pests and Diseases course is designed for staff at local councils and retail nurseries, landscapers and horticulturalists. The course provides training in pest identification and on the actions to take if staff see a suspected exotic pest or disease on plants.”

Mr Furner said the state government was excited to have major retailers looking to integrate the training into their staff training to build their core biosecurity awareness.

“We are seeking more companies who are willing to be biosecurity champions and build this awareness within their business to protect Queensland from biosecurity threats,” he said.



Fuller's Rose Weevil is a pest species attacking pome and stone fruit in Victoria and other parts of Australia.

Picture: SUPPLIED

“Each course takes about 30 minutes to complete and participants will receive a certificate of completion. Employers can recognise these courses as professional development.”

The packages were developed by Biosecurity Queensland, Plant Health Australia, and the NSW Government.

Plant Health Australia (PHA) CEO Sarah Corcoran said collaboration and partnerships were key elements of a strong, integrated Australian biosecurity system.

“By forming new partnerships and extending our biosecurity training to new areas of the supply chain, we are boosting our collective ability to detect and report suspected

pests and diseases,” Ms Corcoran said.

“These new courses will be valuable additions to PHA's library of free online training courses to enhance plant health knowledge and raise biosecurity awareness.

“Equipping key industries with practical biosecurity training and practices that they can incorporate into their day-to-day tasks not only adds an additional layer to Australia's biosecurity network but also demonstrates that you don't need to be an expert to detect and report something unusual.”

Mr Furner said Australia had strong measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of pests and diseases.

“However, for the system to be as robust as

possible, it needs everyone at all points in the chain to be vigilant and report anything unusual,” Mr Furner said.

“Training staff to be biosecurity aware and making sure everyone knows the reporting process adds an additional weapon to our arsenal.

“I encourage employers to contact Biosecurity Queensland for more information on how to integrate these free courses into their corporate training packages.

To register for these training packages, visit <http://phabolt.com.au/>

To report a suspected pest or disease call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.



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School's trip to mine site

Years 11 and 12 students from Moura State High School have presented their team's model mine vehicles to a group of representatives from Anglo American as they wrap up the Oresome Trades Camp delivered by the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA).

Created by the QMEA, which is the education arm of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC), the five-day hands-on workshop aims to encourage students to pursue tertiary trade pathways that can lead them to rewarding careers in the resources industry.

QRC Director of Skills, Education and Diversity Katrina-Lee Jones said thanks to support from Anglo American, students gained valuable experience in the exciting trade-based roles the sector has to offer, including a behind-the-scenes tour of Anglo American's Dawson Mine.

"The resources sector employs some of the most skilled and highest-paid trades professionals, and an enduring skills shortage means there is an abundance of job opportunities for passionate tradespeople," Ms Jones said.

"This week, students worked collaboratively in teams as they rotated through different trade-related activities to design and construct a replica mine vehicle equipped with head lights, indicators, and emergency flashing lights."

General Manager of Anglo American's Dawson Mine, Clarence Robertson said this camp was an opportunity for students to experience trade disciplines, including welding, electrical, and mechanical.



Moura students at the QLD Minerals and Energy Academy.

"Working alongside our experienced tradespeople, the students gained practical knowledge and skills which will open their minds to what is needed for a safe and successful trade career," he said.

"Our team enjoys sharing their knowledge and experience with the students each year through the Oresome Trades Camp and other QMEA activities. We're committed to supporting a sustainable pipeline of qualified workers in the regions through our apprenticeship programs and traineeships, and we would encourage these students to consider a career

with Anglo American."

Moura State High School principal Jill Lees said this camp provided invaluable work experience for students who gained new skills under the mentorship of experienced trade professionals.

"As educators, it's important to prepare our students for life after school, and this Oresome Trades Camp delivered by the QMEA and Anglo American was a great way for students to bolster their knowledge and understanding of career pathways in the resources industry."



Students problem solving in construction.

As Australia's largest and most successful industry-led education and schools training initiative, the QMEA seeks to broaden student and teacher knowledge of career opportunities in resources.

The academy encourages a talent pipeline of employees into vocational and professional careers, with a focus on female and Indigenous participation. The QMEA currently engages with 90 schools and is a partnership between the QRC and the Queensland Government under its Gateway to Industry Schools program.

Working to equip both apprentices and employers

Mas National works to equip Australia's diverse workforce, employers and communities with the skills they need.

In collaboration with business, government and industry, Mas, part of the Into Work Australia Group, delivers a wide range of support services to empower businesses, individuals, and communities across Australia.

Local Mas Business Consultant Warren Hale said the Mas Experience Stream delivered by MRAEL was focused on delivering better workplace solutions for individuals and businesses through apprenticeship and trainee programs across all industries.

MRAEL has been the leading provider of education, training, and employment services in Queensland for 35 years.

"Mas Experiences had helped thousands of apprentices, trainees, and employers nationally, to better navigate the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Australia," Warren said.

"This includes being the first point of contact to provide information, including support and advice throughout the process, to ensure a training contract is secured for the chosen qualification for the apprentice or trainee."

The primary role of a training contract

is to formalise and collect all the necessary information for apprentices, trainees, and employers to access Federal and State Government funding, subsidies, incentives and FREE assistance from Mas National.

Warren, along with fellow consultant Dianne Treveton, covers Rockhampton, Grace mere, Mount Morgan, The Capricorn Coast, Marlborough, and Shoal water Bay, including other outlying areas.

Warren's business ownership experience spans over 25 years, and includes ownership in the fast-food and the construction industries (both franchised and non-franchised).

With more than 45 years of industry knowledge, Warren has excelled in several roles, including both supervisory and managerial, within manufacturing, chemical processing, metal scrap recycling, aluminum smelting, electric and gas furnace operations, engineering jobbing shops, structural steel fabrication and erection, commercial and domestic construction, and abattoir processes.

Warren's career has included owning his own businesses in Central Queensland, working as a Queensland Senior State Development Officer, Business Advisor with Commerce Queensland and the Federal Govern-

ment. Currently Warren has been appointed by the Premier of Queensland to the Central Queensland Regional Community Forum for a 2-year tenure.

Dianne's passion is helping and looking after people. Dianne's career has spanned 30 years across Hospitality, Retail, Medical Administration, Disability Sector, Sales and Marketing, Recruitment, Apprenticeship Services and owned a Photography business for 25 years.

Dianne's current role working with apprentices and trainees is her dream job because she loves being able to sign them up into their chosen careers and give them a head start in life.

"Mas Experience is an innovative service for employers and provides a new generation of support to hire, train and retain employees," Warren said.

"Working closely with the local business community and industry stakeholders is an integral part of why we are so successful and are continuing to expand our network of satisfied employers and apprentices and trainees.

"Connecting with organisations like Multicultural Australia who deliver Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) programs

in collaboration with Central Queensland University as their registered training organisation delivering Hospitality and Construction courses we are also able to connect the organisation and trainees with potential local employers to continue the pathway these programs are designed to encourage employment in local communities."

From 1 July the Federal Government has introduced a new Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System.

For Employers:

Priority Wage Subsidy 10 per cent of wages for first and second year apprentices (up to \$1500 per quarter) and five per cent of wages for the third-year apprentices (up to \$750 per quarter).

Hiring Incentive \$3,500 paid in two equal six-monthly instalments at the six and 12 month point of their qualification.

For Australian Apprentices:

Australian Apprentice Training Support Payment \$1,250 every six months over the first two years of the Australian Apprenticeship, up to \$5,000 in total. Trade Support Loans - Interest free Loans of up to \$22,890 (for 2022-23) over the course of the apprenticeship.



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Rescue300 in Emerald



The rotors of RACQ CapRescue fly far and wide. Covering 350,000km² and protecting over 300,000 people, from Banana Shire to Central Highlands and everywhere in between.

More than 120 businesses support the life-saving service through a membership to their Rescue300 club, most recently with the addition of several new Emerald members.

Rescue300 is a group of like-minded businesses throughout Central Queensland working together to help keep their family, friends, and staff safe by supporting CapRescue with an annual donation.

This new uptake results from a recently appointed staff member Julie Smith. Julie grew up in Emerald and knows the importance of the service in more remote areas.

“Being an Emerald girl myself, and with my parents still living there, I’m conscious of people in the country being able to access critical medical care, she said.

It’s great to see Emerald businesses get behind the Rescue300 club, especially when almost 30% of our tasks are completed in the Central Highlands each year.”

Some new members that have joined the club that saves lives include APH Glass and Aluminium and H.E.M.E Pty/Ltd.

Tony Hales of APH Glass and Aluminium said becoming a Rescue300 Member was an easy decision.

“Living in Emerald, we are fortunate to have a great hospital in our town. However, the surrounding townships and remote properties nearby rely heavily on the fantastic service the RACQ CapRescue chopper provides. To have an incredible team, including the expertise from the in-flight Critical Care Paramedics at our doorstep, is a service we are proud to be part of.”

H.E.M.E owner Kym Hellmuth was excited to be one of the first Emerald based members.

“We really think this is such an incredibly important part of our chosen obligation in supporting our community,” she said.

Other incredible Emerald businesses that have made a real difference in the lives of many Central Queenslanders, include Emerald Carrying Company, Emerald Coaches, Emerald Taxis, Fair Dinkum Fresh, GBA Consulting Engineers, Louisa Backus Speech Pathology, Lunar Mining and Ryder Machining Services Pty Ltd.

The Rescue300 Club is a membership opportunity like no other. This exclusive offering is available to individuals and organisations within the RACQ CapRescue community and is one of the best ways you can support their mission to serve Central Queensland.

Join the Rescue300 community today! Contact Julie Smith on 49229093 or email julies@caprescue.org.au



Spring Picnic - what a great idea for a Sunday afternoon

On Sunday the 28th of August, a brightly coloured crowd lazed their afternoon away at the beautiful St Aubins Village celebrating the start of Spring and supporting RACQ CapRescue.

The inaugural Spring Picnic, proudly sponsored by Civil Support, saw guests soaking in the change of season, enjoying delicious food, fun entertainment and wonderful company.



October 9

Colour Me Capricorn Gladstone



Scan QR code for tickets and more info



Communications and Engagement Officer Kim Moss said the event was inspired by a connection with the owners of St Aubins as they are on the frontline of witnessing the work of CapRescue.

“Lauren, Jan, and the team are so close that they can’t miss the helicopter heading out on rescues. They are great supporters, and our crew often find themselves enjoying the hospitality,” she said.

The afternoon started with music from the Capricornia Silver Band; attendees enjoyed individual boxes of savoury and sweet treats whilst viewing the latest spring fashions, and a mini flower workshop kept the creative minds busy. Others relaxed on their blankets as Damo and Lee wrapped up the afternoon with live entertainment.

As the first event of its kind held by CapRescue, it was well received and enjoyed by those who attended.

Sponsor Mark Prideaux of Civil Support said they were delighted to be a supporter of CapRescue and the vital service they provide to our local communities.

“A Spring Picnic, what a great idea and a great way to relax on a Sunday afternoon while supporting CapRescue,” he said.

“Civil Support was proud to sponsor this event. The food was great, and the wonderful volunteers ensured we all enjoyed the afternoon’s activities. Mark it down as a must do for next year and come along and support the crew.”

Community Fundraising Officer Caitlin Buttenshaw said that whilst numbers were limited; the afternoon still raised almost \$6000.

“We have many people to thank for this great result, Civil Support, our volunteers, the market stall holders, those who donated raffle prizes and of course, the people who took the time to come along on Sunday,” she said.

For more information on CapRescue events and photos from the day, head to the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CapRescue.org.au/>