

A job in the mines may not be forever

EDITORIAL

By **MICHAELA ROLLINGS**

MINING is a massive part of the Hunter Valley's economic culture.

Over the past few months though, hundreds of people have been put out of jobs and made redundant by huge mining companies.

Thousands of families rely on the money they make out of the mines to pay the cost of living in this beautiful district.

Australia is the fourth-largest coal producer in the world and we ship most of it to China and India.

These countries are paying less for our coal, therefore the mine has less money to pay employees.

The mines make the most expendable workers redundant first, and work their way up the list until they are able to earn enough money to pay the employees the required amounts.

Local miner, Greg Rollings, has experienced the trauma of being terminated from his job as a development maintenance supervisor at Ravensworth Underground Mine in November, 2012.

He voluntarily transferred to Bulga Underground Operations Mine when his position was made redundant.

"In the next three weeks, over 70 people will have been made redundant. In total, over 150 people have been made redundant over the past six months," he said.

Three people out of the last group of 30 they made redundant are still looking for jobs.

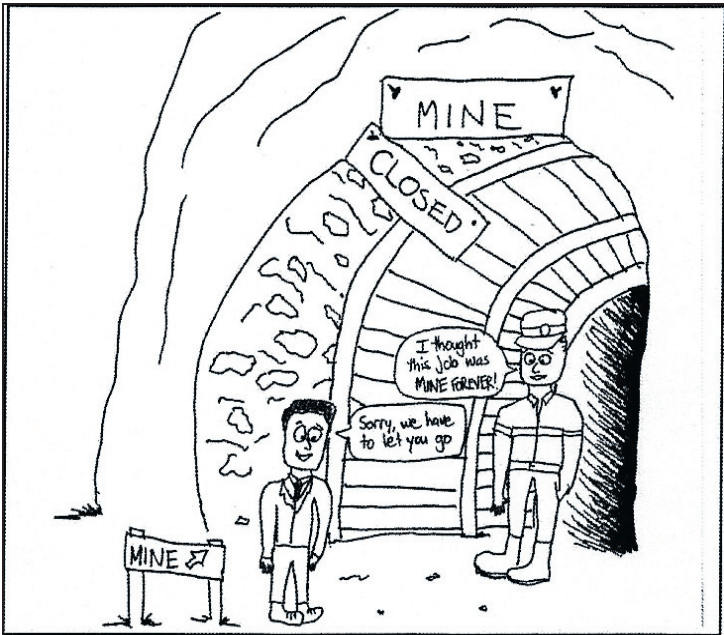
They won't be able to get another position in the mines because there aren't any readily available.

Australia is well-known for its mining economy, and with so many mines in Australia, hundreds of families rely on the jobs they provide. The mines are forcing them into unemployment, while new positions are created in other locations.

Australians are known for sticking up for their mates, but these multimillion-dollar companies are betraying Aussie battlers and chasing profits instead. If they had any integrity, they'd spend a fraction of their profits on relocating their employees to new positions either locally or in other regions.

If the mines continue to exclude people from their jobs, the industry will risk being seen as unstable as far as career development opportunities go, and will therefore become less attractive to dedicated job seekers.

While the mines think they are saving money now, they are really costing themselves and Australians more money in the long run.



Cartoon: *Brandon Thomson*



UPDATED: Crowds flocked to the St Philip's Christian College grand opening of its new facilities.
Picture: *Mikayla Oswald*

School opens new campus

By **MIKAYLA OSWALD**

ST PHILIP'S Christian College recently celebrated the opening of its modern new campus at the corner of Wine Country Drive and Lomas Lane, Nulkaba.

It boasts state-of-the-art facilities that offer opportunities across a range of traditional and more modern pursuits.

The new site was developed to accommodate the school's rapidly growing population – it has grown from 28 students eight years ago to now approximately 600 students.

Following the opening of its first Nulkaba facility in April 2012, a year on the site is now home to a range of other learning spaces.

The buildings were officially opened by federal member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon, and members of the Student Representative Council spoke about the school.

School captains Samuel Hines and Madeline Wright were the Masters of Ceremony and they also gave speeches.

The parent body was represented by Kyle Davis.

Other special guests included past principals, staff and students from other St Philip's Christian College schools and some ex-students.

With a strong focus on sustainability, the new campus has been designed with the future in mind. The site also hosts a Trade Training Centre that was opened the same day.

Hawks fail to fire up in Rebel Cup

By **PATRICK ROSEE**

THE Under 13s Hunter Valley Hawks have failed to produce a win in the Rebel Cup in the April holidays this year.

The Rebel Cup is a representative football tournament that goes for one week and includes teams from all over the state.

The Hawks started off the cup with an unfortunate loss to the Far North Coast team. Their bad luck continued when they faced Mid North Coast, Macquarie and North Coast, losing each game without even scoring a goal.

The next game was against Northern Inland and the Hawks came out firing, holding off the Inland's attack and finding themselves in scoring opportunities on a few occasions. It was looking to be a draw until a Hunter corner in the last few minutes left many players out of position, but after a few lucky touches it was in the back of the net. This close encounter lifted the team, who went on to a narrow loss to the eventual winners, Northern New South Wales Under 12s.

"Our first touch and passing accuracy is letting us down," explained coach Steve Ling.

"They are a talented bunch of players and they are slowly improving."

The boys hope to improve and reign in the upcoming country championships.

Closing credits roll for Cessnock Cinema

By **MADISON SCHIPP**

CITIZENS of Cessnock are dismayed after the closure of Cessnock Cinema earlier this year.

The cinema screened its last movie on February 27, only two months after new ownership under Scott Seddon, who said the building needed some major renovations.

"There has been a core group of citizens who have come up to four times a week and I thank those people for their support, but sadly the vast majority

of Cessnock residents have been apathetic to the cause and unfortunately I cannot justify the mounting weekly losses any further," read a note left by Mr Seddon.

"I must thank every one of the team members for their faith, loyalty and enthusiasm."

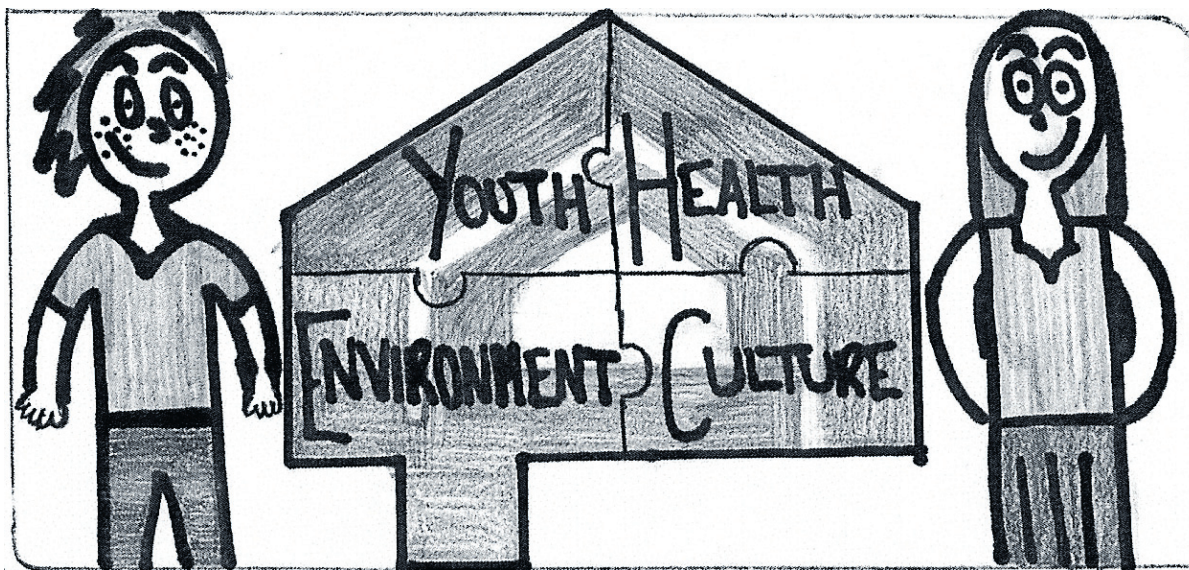
Cessnock resident Kyra Jurd said that she was "extremely disappointed".

"I have to drive half an hour to watch a movie now. Perhaps the council should have given them a grant to stay open."



FINAL REEL: Lack of support has closed Cessnock Cinema's doors.
Picture: *Madison Schipp*

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