

Ravenswood Round-up

April 2023

Ravenswood Gold Expansion Project Completed



Ravenswood Gold celebrated the opening of its expansion project with around 120 guests attending the official opening at the Mine on Wednesday 12 April, followed by community BBQ dinner held at the school.

CEO Brett Fletcher said the Ravenswood team, with local specialists and regional businesses worked together to deliver the expansion project, safely and efficiently. “We are proud to have completed the planned expansion project, making a huge contribution to the local and regional economy. I am incredibly proud of the Ravenswood Gold team,” he said. Constructed over three years and now supporting a permanent workforce of 430 with 220 permanent contractors, the mine has a capacity to ramp up production to more than 200,000 ounces of gold each year until at least 2032.



During construction, the project supported more than 1,000 workers who extended the life of the operation by expanding the mine and processing plant. This included the purchase of a new mining fleet, constructing a new crusher circuit, mill, leaching tanks and tailings storage facility. The official opening involved unveiling a commemorative plaque by Queensland Resources Minister The Hon. Scott Stewart MP, who is also the Member for Townsville. “Ravenswood Gold project deserves a gold medal for how it supports locals and local businesses,” Mr Stewart said. “It is providing jobs, flow on benefits for local businesses and is ensuring a sustainable future for the town of Ravenswood well beyond the life of the mine.”

In addition to Minister Stewart, guest speakers included Birriah elder Karen Dodd, Member for Kennedy Bob Katter, Charters Towers Mayor Cr Frank Beveridge, Ravenswood State School Principal Katee Wakefield and the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Ambassador Siswo Pramono, EMR Capital Executive Chairman Owen Hegarty and Golden Energy and Resources Executive Director and Group CEO Dwi Prasetyo Suseno.



Ravenswood Gold management and staff enjoyed a relaxing BBQ dinner with the community members after the official formalities of the Ravenswood Expansion Project Opening. It was an opportunity to mix and mingle and enjoy live music by singer/songwriter, Billie Rose.

Pictured right is Ravenswood Gold’s CEO Brett Fletcher with local resident and member of the RPPA Committee, Raelene Rollinson.



Home and Heritage

Mingela, with an estimated population of 20, is located 48 kilometres east from Charters Towers on the Flinders Highway and 40 kilometers north west of Ravenswood. The site of Mingela was once known as Cunningham's Waterholes. It was the ideal location for a railway junction following the Ravenswood gold rush of 1869 and the Charters Towers rush of 1872. The township of Cunningham was surveyed in 1881 and its name soon changed to Ravenswood Junction in 1884. When the railway line was closed in 1930, the name changed again to Mingela from the original Aboriginal place name of "Ming-illa", meaning big waterhole. These billabongs were ideal for settlers and travellers to camp overnight.

Mingella is a significant WWII historic place. In April 1942, a cablegram was sent to the Minister for Trade and Customs by Mrs I F Jones, proprietor of the North Australian Hotel at Mingela. Mrs Jones concern for Allied Works Council tradesmen inadvertently revealed that something was happening at Mingela.

"Male population greatly increased since doing essential work... beer quota totally inadequate... Shortage is likely to retard work.."

During World War 2, Mingela was selected by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a secret Very High Frequency Direction Finding (VHF DF) station. See *Queensland WWII Historic Places at ww2places.qld.gov.au for more information.*



Close to 200 people attended the Ravenswood Anzac Day Dawn Service held on the Courthouse grounds on Tuesday 25th April. Hosted by the Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association (RRPA), veteran and local SES coordinator Ivan Bates was the Master of Ceremonies, and students from the Ravenswood State School presented poems and readings. Laying of wreaths and the solemn formalities significant to an Anzac Dawn Service included the reading of the *Ode of Remembrance*, the *Last Post* and *Reveille* played, a two minute silence and singing of *Advance Australia Fair*. Following the service, the RRPA invited participants to enjoy a breakfast together, sponsored by Ravenswood Gold. This included delicious Anzac biscuits donated by Cater Care. Thank you to all who participated and attended.



Emergency Response Team called to Action

In the early morning of Thursday 30th March, Ravenswood Gold was notified by a passing motorist of a single vehicle road traffic crash. The vehicle had overturned numerous times and was laying in a paddock off the Burdekin Falls Dam Road, approximately two kilometres short of the Kirk River bridge. A radio call was made to the duty mine site Emergency Response Team (ERT) personnel. Seven mine ERT members, responded in both the Ravenswood Gold fire-rescue appliance and another emergency response vehicle, plus a nurse and paramedic in the mine's ambulance. From the time of call, it only took six minutes for Ravenswood Gold ERT to respond and head out to the location of the incident. The ERT personnel commenced making the damaged vehicle safe, such as disconnecting the vehicle's battery to prevent any fire, whilst providing a fire watch. The ERT also established road traffic control to protect both emergency vehicles, ambulances and police on their arrival. The driver of the vehicle and a baby had been extricated from the wrecked vehicle and were waiting in a passer-by's vehicle. Both were immediately assessed by the nurse and paramedic for injuries and were later taken to the Charters Towers Hospital. Both were released later that day with minimal injury. Ravenswood Gold ERT and ambulance crews handed the scene control over to the Charters Towers Charters Towers police and the Fire-Rescue Service.

Road Crash Rescue is one of the many emergency disciplines that the ERT train and practise for both mine site responses or supporting the Queensland government emergency services in the surrounding Ravenswood district. In the past year, Fire-Rescue appliance crewed by the mines ERT, has been called to two road accidents near Mingela, another road accident rollover at the bottom of the range on the Ayr-Ravenswood Road, and recently an accident at the corner of the Burdekin Falls Dam Road and Macrossan Street intersection. The mines ERT crews will attend the Queensland Fire-Rescue Service Station-12 in Charters Towers in mid-May for fire-rescue skills and drills familiarisation along with the career firefighters. This will enhance Ravenswood Gold Mine emergency response capability to benefit emergency response within the surrounding Ravenswood district.

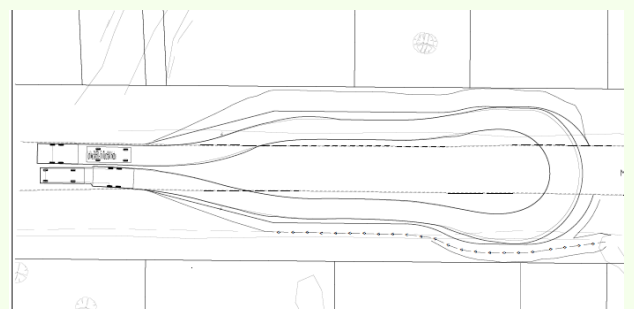


The Ravenswood Gold four wheel drive fire-rescue appliance is a fire-fighting unit for both structural and chemical fires. This unit is capable of pumping over 4000 litres of water per minute and carries over 400 meters of lay flat fire hoses, and two 60 meter fire hose reels. The unit carries four sets of breathing apparatus and a thermal imaging camera to allow the trained ERT to combat any type of fire. It is fully equipped with vertical rescue and confined space rescue equipment. All mine emergency response vehicles carry high level trauma kits, airway kits, medical oxygen units and defibrillators for effective pre-hospital care treatment if required.



Macrossan Street Turn Around

Construction a vehicle turn around near the entrance of the mine site on Macrossan Street is planned to commence later in the dry season. Particularly for caravaners and motorhomes, it will be easier to manoeuvre vehicles at this section of the street. Access into the mine site will not be affected, although caution is required for changed traffic conditions during construction.



School's back for Term 2

Term two is off to a flying start with the students only having one week to prepare for the responsibilities of presenting during the Anzac Day Dawn Service. An afternoon was spent using water colour paints and silhouette images to create Anzac inspired art pieces that were displayed at the community breakfast. Students also learned the significance of the poppy as they designed their own poppies and wreaths for the service.

The dawn service was attended by all students from Prep to Year 6, who proudly accompanied the representatives laying wreaths and later sang the Australian National Anthem. Artie (Y6), April (Y5) and Jiriah (Y4) beautifully recited a poem titled 'To The Sunburnt Ear' by Tony Gunter, while Davin did an excellent job at reading the Lord's Prayer. Ravenswood SS express their appreciation for having the honour to participate in the service and show their respect the Anzac and wider community.



Welcome back to Principal Katee Wakefield. Having been away on maternity leave since November last year, she has returned to once again take up the helm...along with Lola...that's the dog not the baby!



Even before Term 2 started, Katee accepted the invitation to speak at the Ravenswood Expansion Project Official Opening. We can all be very proud of Katee representing the school and community. Her speech acknowledged the support provided by Ravenswood Gold (RG) and the additional companies involved in the Ravenswood Expansion Project for the school P&C and the community by supporting the businesses.

The North Queensland Caravan Club visited our school and donated Anzac story books as well as history books from the Townsville War Museum. Big thanks from us for once again joining in our Dawn Service and your kindness and generosity to our school.



We all wish the best of luck to the Year 4, 5 and 6 students who have been selected to compete this week in the Interschool Cross Country in Charters Towers. All of Ravenswood know you will do your best!



L to R: Charters Towers Mayor CR Frank Beveridge, Minister Scott Stewart MP, Katee Wakefield, RG Chairman Owen Hegarty OAM, Indonesian Ambassador to Australia H.E. Dr Siswo Pramono, RG Board Director Dwi Prasetyo Suseno.

Ravenswood Landfill

Residents are advised that the Ravenswood Landfill is now closed as an operational landfill where waste is buried on-site. As an interim measure to cater for waste disposal, a temporary Waste Transfer facility will be established at the same location and open to the public 8:00am - 12pm every Wednesday and on weekends. Skip bins have been provided by Ravenswood Gold to dispose of waste, with areas set aside for green waste, scrap steel, and bulky items. Please ensure you dump waste in designated areas.

This facility will be used until a stand-alone Waste Transfer Station is constructed in Ravenswood.



Council Town Officer appointed

The new Council Town Officer needs no introduction having lived in Ravenswood for over 20 years. Joeleene Easton previously worked as the mine's Grounds Assistant so it will be a smooth transition for Joeleene to undertake the maintenance and beautification of the town as the Charters Towers Council Town Officer. Joeleene will be out and about from Monday to Friday, so if you see her mowing parks give her a wave!



Retired after 42 years in the same job

Joeleene takes over from Steve Hancock another long term local resident with strong family ties to Ravenswood. Steve recently officially retired as the Council Town Officer after a mammoth 42 years of service to the community. Steve is pictured with Brett Parsons, Charters Towers Regional Council Director of Infrastructure Services and shaking hands with CEO Martin Drydale.

Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement and Raising Project

Sunwater, who owns and operates the Burdekin Falls Dam, has been investigating a proposal to raise the dam to meet future water demand and support the dam's long-term viability.

The project proposes to increase the storage capacity of Burdekin Falls Dam by raising it two metres to increase water supply in the region. Required safety upgrades will also improve the dam's resilience to pass significant floods in the future.

Work is progressing on an environmental impact statement and community consultation has commenced.

Enquires can be made to the Sunwater project team via burdekin.projects@sunwater.com.au or 1800 325 145.



Join the Ravenswood SES The State Emergency Service is a volunteer emergency and rescue service.



The Ravenswood SES are keen to have you join the team as they learn emergency and rescue skills to be ready when and if required. This month the group has undertaken a 4x4 driving course on the Burdekin River and have been instructed on Road Crash Rescue where they were joined by Magnetic Island, Townsville and Charters Towers SES groups here in Ravenswood. Contact Ivan on 0447 410 123 if you would like to become an SES volunteer.



Gran Fondo The Ravenswood to Burdekin Dam Gran Fondo will be held on **Saturday 29th April** starting at 8am on Macrossan Street near the Imperial Hotel.

Royal Flying Doctors Service The Flying Doctors will be in Ravenswood on **Wednesday 3rd May**.

Community Morning Tea A community morning tea will be held 10am **Wednesday 3rd May** at Thorps Tearoom and Treasures.

Church Service A non denominational Christian service will be held at the Ravenswood Church on **Sunday 7th May** starting at 11.30am.

Ravenswood Restoration and Preservation Association (RRPA) The RRPA will meet on **Tuesday 9th May** at 2pm at the Community Hall.

Ravenswood Garden markets Enjoy browsing through the Ravenswood Garden Markets on Mothers Day, **Sunday 14th May**.



The next Social Club dinner is a Taco night to be held on Tuesday 9 and 30 of May.

The Burdekin Growers Race Day is on 20th May. Social Club members will receive free entry and drink vouchers. RSVP your interest to the club secretary.

The winning entry of the Ravenswood Social Club Picture Perfect Competition is this stunning image of Ravenswood township after the wet season.



socialclubsecretary@ravenswoodgold.com