

Dendrobium Community News

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal



THERMAL DRONE SURVEYS REVEAL HIDDEN WONDERS OF THE ILLAWARRA ESCARPMENT

Symbio Wildlife Park, in collaboration with South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal (IMC), has successfully unveiled a treasure trove of wildlife secrets hidden within the Illawarra Escarpment, particularly in the Mount Kembla area. The ground-breaking research project, conducted over the past six months, utilised cutting-edge thermal drone technology to conduct extensive surveys, uncovering a diverse array of species thriving in the region.

Until as recently as 2016, the Illawarra Escarpment remained largely unexplored in its biodiversity. Previous assumptions even suggested koalas were geographically extinct from the area. However, recent thermal drone research conducted by Symbio Wildlife Park, with support from South32, has defied these notions, bringing to light an astonishing wealth of wildlife.

The 6-month study covered a 1,250-hectare expanse of the Illawarra Escarpment, extending from East Appin and Cataract. The results revealed a thriving ecosystem with over 1,150 detections recorded, including:

- 31 Koalas (Endangered) – Maximum Individual count of 18
- 88 Southern Greater Gliders (Endangered)
- 8 Sugar Gliders
- Hundreds of Swamp Wallabies and wombats
- Over 100 Ring Tailed and Brush Tailed Possum
- Powerful Owls
- Various species of birds
- Over 600 deer

The findings underscore the ecological richness of the Illawarra Escarpment's subtropical rainforest. Over the coming months, this data will be utilised to give absolute abundance mapping for the various native and pest species in the region.

Jarrad Prangell, Conservation Manager for Symbio Wildlife Park, expressed astonishment at the results, stating, "With almost no scientific research of this area, we are astounded by the

findings, which not only showcase the extent of the wildlife but also emphasize how well-preserved much of the land at the top of the escarpment is."

IMC's Vice President Operations Peter Baker said: "Symbio Wildlife Park's research demonstrates that the Illawarra Escarpment is home to rich ecosystems and a wide variety of wildlife, including populations of endangered koalas and greater gliders.

"It's fantastic news, and South32 is proud to have supported Symbio Wildlife Park's work to date, enabling the community to gain an even greater understanding of the thriving wildlife right that exists right here on our doorstep."

This research is part of a three-year partnership between Symbio Wildlife Park and South32, designed to support wildlife conservation in the Illawarra and Macarthur regions and provide education on the importance of wildlife conservation.



DENDROBIUM HOSTS CLONTARF FOUNDATION STUDENTS

South32 recently hosted students from the Clontarf Foundation Academy at Dendrobium Mine.

Following previous visits by Clontarf Foundation Academy students, this visit allowed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to learn about our business and career opportunities in the mining sector.

The day started with a presentation by the General Manager of Dendrobium Mine, Simon Thomas, who gave an overview of the operation and shared his journey to date, including starting off at South32 as a graduate.

Daniel Dal Bon from the South32 Human Resources team explained the various graduate and cadetship programs and apprenticeships on offer to the group.

Trainee Surveyor Alaa Darwich also talked about his experience with South32 before the group was taken on an underground tour at Dendrobium.

“It was fantastic to host the students from the Clontarf Foundation Academy, take them on a tour of Dendrobium Mine, and show them how we produce metallurgical coal for steelmaking,” Mr Thomas said.

“At South32, we’re working to build a workforce representative of the communities where we operate, and we’re proud to work with the Clontarf Foundation Academy and hopefully inspire some of their students to take their first step towards a career with South32.”

A MESSAGE FROM SIMON THOMAS

On behalf of the team at Dendrobium Mine, I would like to wish our community a safe and restful holiday season.

We were proud to partner with local organisations including Clontarf Foundation, Science Space, and Hockey South Coast, as well as support several community projects and initiatives through the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Committee.

We know this would not be possible without your ongoing support, so thank you and I look forward to another great year in 2024.

Stay safe and healthy.

Simon
General Manager Dendrobium Mine



\$100K FOR CONVOY

South32 has a long history of supporting Illawarra Convoy, each year handing over the keys to our Appin North Mine to serve as the official starting line for Convoy of 1,800 trucks and motorbikes.

To show our support this year, South32 pledged to double every dollar donated through our fundraising page up to \$50,000. Thanks to generous donations by South32 employees, local businesses and the community, the page hit its target, raising an incredible \$50,063.10.

We were proud to double that amount, bringing the total donation amount to \$100,063.10. It brings us joy to know these funds will go directly towards supporting local kids and families doing it tough.



TEAM DENDROBIUM MAKES PODIUM

South32 IMC's Dendrobium team, representing the Southern NSW Mines Rescue district, place third at the 59th annual Australian Underground Mines Rescue Competition held in October.

Keeping your cool under pressure is tough on a hot Moranbah day. Still, eight highly skilled mine rescue teams proved their mettle in a national competition, which Grosvenor's Mines Rescue team won. Sister Anglo-American mine and host site Moranbah North came runner-up.

Working calmly to reduce hazards and treat mock patients, the teams completed eight high-pressure exercises at Moranbah North Mine.

The competition format included underground and surface simulation exercises to demonstrate knowledge and the use of equipment in realistic scenarios, including exercises to test hazard awareness, underground search and rescue, first aid, and firefighting.

The simulated real-life scenarios included longwall rock falls, grinder and crush injuries, drift fires, and snake bites. Each simulation had a time limit, and assessors scored each element of the test.

"In the almost 20 years that the mine has been running, this is the first time that a team from Dendrobium has competed at an Australian competition. I've been part of mines rescue since 2015, and today was probably the hardest comp I've ever done," said Dendrobium team captain Robert Monkley.

"I am so proud of the team's performance. It was a tough event in challenging conditions against remarkably highly skilled teams. Congratulations to the winning teams and everyone who competed."

"Special thanks to Southern Mines Rescue for their training and support, and to our General Manager Simon Thomas for his ongoing support of the team."

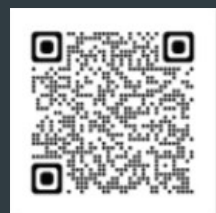
OPERATIONAL UPDATE DENDROBIUM MINE

Longwall Changeout and Mine Progress: We recently completed activities associated with moving to the next longwall underground at Dendrobium Mine. Longwall 19A commenced extraction in November 2023 and will take approximately six months to complete.

Illawarra Escarpment Slope Stability Works: Part A of the project is now complete at Kembla Heights. Two stages are still planned to reduce the potential impact of further land slippage. In December 2023, we will commence works at the Dendrobium Mine car park with activities focused on installing additional erosion and sediment controls. We will keep you updated on action items as the work must be undertaken following the recommendations of the geotechnical report.

Stones Road Remediation: Works will commence in December 2023 for up to one month to provide adequate water drainage, erosion controls, and road surface reinstalment. Residents will be notified before the planned work begins.

Community Portal: If you would like to learn more about our mining plans, projects and activities, please visit our Community Portal on <https://community.south32.net> or scan the QR code.



DENDROBIUM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Community Consultation Committee meets bimonthly; the minutes are publicly available on our website.

The following items were discussed at our last meeting held in October 2023:

- Environment update, including noise and water monitoring and progress on the Rehabilitation Management Plan;
- Operations update, including completion of Longwall 21, planned commencement of Longwall 19A, and completion of slope stability works; and
- Community investments generated from South32 IMC and the Dendrobium Community Partnership Program, including support for Southern Stars Arena Spectacular and Symbio Wildlife Park Koala Conservation project.



NEW PLAYGROUND FOR FIGTREE PRIMARY

We had the pleasure of visiting Figtree Public School for the official opening of their new playground, with a ribbon cutting by students of the SRC.

Thanks to a contribution by our South32 Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program and the school's fundraising, the much-needed upgrade was made possible.

The new playground, constructed using safer and more durable materials, will be enjoyed by students now and for many years.



PORTABLE DEFIBRILLATOR DONATED TO KEMBLA HEIGHTS BOWLING CLUB

We are proud to have provided a new, potentially lifesaving portable defibrillator to the Kemplla Heights Bowling & Recreation Club.

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to diagnose and treat serious heart conditions such as cardiac arrest. They will be available to the club and local residents in a medical emergency.



COMMUNITY CALL LINE

Residents who have questions, concerns or complaints about Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's activities are encouraged to contact us through our Community Call Line on **1800 102 210**. You can also email at illawarracommunity@south32.net

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Follow the South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Facebook Page to stay up to date with what we're doing at our operation and in the community.

To find our page, **scan the QR code** or go to [facebook.com/South32 IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal](https://facebook.com/South32IllawarraMetallurgicalCoal)

