

# Update

from Mark Milazzo  
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Mining (HWE)



There's a great energy around the sites at present – with our gold mines producing one of the few commodities holding strong against the weakened global economy, and helping to strengthen the business as a whole.

With our new site at Wattle Dam, near Kambalda in WA, recently blasting a first cut for its decline portal we now operate at six different gold mines for clients in Australia and New Zealand, and there's some great work being done.

At Daisy Milano, a single-boom jumbo drill used to mine the ore more efficiently is helping the team continue to exceed its targets. At St Ives we are working closely with our client, Gold Fields, towards productive improvements in the mining process, which will form part of the basis for going forward with an extension to that contract. St Ives produces more than 400,000 ounces of gold annually and our crews play a major role mining the open pits.

Our team is achieving some great things at Challenger. We recently celebrated a five-year milestone since the inception of the underground mine; while at South Middleback Ranges we have commissioned two new Hitachi EX2500 excavators to accommodate OneSteel's expanded hematite business.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we recently held a five-day safety workshop to help standardise our processes and establish effective networks across our sites. I believe that in order for us to be the best – safely we must continue to share with each other, learn from what we share and continuously improve.

Best, and safe, wishes for the coming months.

## Flames extinguished safely in fire training

HWE Mining employees are using innovative fire extinguisher training methods that are safer and better for the environment.

The BullEx fire extinguisher training system simulates A, B, and C class fires, and automatically varies the intensity of flames and heat in response to the trainees' fire extinguishing techniques.

Employees are trained using a digital fire system on a solid tray and burner unit – negating the need for trays filled with diesel to simulate the fires. This makes training safer, and is also better for the environment – releasing fewer toxins into the atmosphere and leaving less mess to clean up.

According to Heather Jackson, Roving Trainer, who is responsible for delivering the

**“Anyone who hasn't had fire training or has limited experience handling a fire gets a good basic introduction on how to use the fire blanket and fire extinguisher.”**



Bruce McBeath from Mesa A using a fire blanket on the BullEx Fire System.

training sessions, the lessons learnt during the controlled training sessions provide a great boost to the employees' confidence.

“I think the system is great. Anyone who hasn't had fire training or has limited experience handling a fire gets a good introduction on how to use a fire blanket and fire extinguisher in a controlled environment,” Heather said.

Trainers no longer have to rely on a vendor to refill the fire extinguishers, reducing the turnaround time for refills. Instead, they refill the equipment themselves by unscrewing the top

of the extinguisher, and adding water, which mixes with compressed air.

The system is currently being rotated to HWE Mining sites to be used in fire extinguisher training and other types of fire training.

Currently at the South Middleback Ranges (SMR) site, the unit will then rotate to the Orebody 23/25 and Area C operations. It is estimated the system will spend one to two months at each site.

## HWE Mining celebrates 5 years at Challenger



Damien Keane, Project Manager, and long-serving employee Steve 'Bluey' Verrier celebrate the five-year anniversary at Challenger.

HWE Mining celebrated five years of operation at Challenger gold mine in South Australia during February 2009.

Originally an open-cut operation, Challenger was transitioning to underground operations

when HWE Mining won the contract in 2004. Full-scale underground production started in early 2005.

Jumbo Operator (and co-captain of the B Crew cricket team) Steve 'Bluey' Verrier has

worked at Challenger for HWE Mining from the start, and said his first few weeks were spent setting up services in the pit, before the crew could start cutting the portal for the decline and establishing the underground workings.

“When I started in 2004 there were three crews of three people – a jumbo operator, a truckie and a bogger operator/charge-up person,” said Bluey.

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Nowadays at Challenger there are many more on the crews operating a substantially larger fleet of equipment.

There is also a tale behind the naming of Challenger mine. According to local legend, Challenger mine was named after a station dog who worked the land surrounding the mine.

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