



MINERS' PROMISE
Keeping the commitment

THE PROMISE

From the Executive Director

As we race towards Christmas 2011, I find myself reflecting on the past 11 months and the work that we have done.

I know I speak on behalf of the Board when I say what an honour it has been to have been able to provide our services to those employed within the resources sector of Western Australia.

Whilst many of those were in crisis when they first made contact with us, we were able to respond quickly to their needs and the needs of their family and support them in a way unique to their personal circumstances.

Whilst there are a number who have a strong support network of family and friends, or who may be financially secure, the majority of the families we support are not in this position. They often have numerous challenges and finding solutions to these can be time consuming and complex. Our thoughts will be with those during this holiday period.

As the Christmas season approaches us, we find ourselves in one of the happiest times of the year.

However whilst we enjoy the precious moments with our family and friends that this time of year brings, I urge you to maintain your focus on safety, not only whilst at work but at home also. Be mindful of the potential hazards and dangers that can bring unwanted tragedy to our lives.

As we celebrate, please maintain diligence to protect the safety and health of all. It's quite easy to lose focus on matters that may seem routine, particularly at this time of year as our thoughts are often elsewhere. However I would like you to remember that the typical resources environment is a complex area. Take a minute or two to think about the task at hand and let's make sure that everybody goes home safely.

I hope you enjoy reading our last newsletter for 2011 and I hope Christmas is a happy time spent with loved ones.

Warmest wishes – Cassie White



Our newsletter has a name – The Promise

Congratulations to Gordon Sattler who submitted the name chosen by the Board for our newsletter.

The Promise

"I can still recall the very first day of my apprenticeship as a heavy Duty Fitter in Logging in NZ. It should have been a joyous occasion. The start of a new career, however it is as vivid today as it was all those years ago.....a local council member fell from a 20 meter high overhead crane & died, landing 30 meters from where I was standing....."

I have worked in NZ as a mechanic with my career diversifying into Logging and mining (both coal & gold) and also spent six months in the highlands of PNG. However I have spent the last twenty years here in Australia working all over the great state of WA in Gold, Tantalum & Iron Ore mining. I am a former employee of HWE Mining however I am now employed by BHP Billiton Iron Ore.

Apart from my unfortunate start I have been lucky enough not to have been involved in any other major incidents but have known people who have, and I have seen the effects..... Long-lasting and wide spread, hence why I have gotten behind Miner's Promise with great gusto & whenever possible I promote Miner's Promise as I can see what a difference this organisation would have made to those not fortunate enough to be able to access it in their times of greatest need."

Have you liked us on Facebook?



Miners' Promise now has a Facebook page which is our preferred means of updating our members of what is happening. It ensures you are kept up to date on important news as it arises.

To ensure you don't miss anything, like us on Facebook.

Simply enter Miners' Promise into the search field and press like.

Alternatively you can join us on Facebook through our website. It is located at the bottom of the home page.



Members only section – Miners’ Promise Website

As a member of Miners’ Promise, you become part of a community, with access to a range of immediate benefits.

Wondering how to make the most of your finances whilst working in the resources industry? Or need legal advice on an issue and don’t know where to start? Or have your circumstances changed and you need to update your will or even make one?

We have established connections with legal, financial, health and other professionals experienced in working with resource sector employees. These professionals are available only to members of Miners’ Promise.

And as we grow so too will this network and the savings you could make.

To access these professional services simply go to our website: www.minerspromise.org.au and click on the members login. You will then be prompted for your user name and password. If you can not find these or have forgotten them, please email me at cassandra.white@minerspromise.org.au and a new set of credentials will be sent.

To ensure you receive the Miners’ Promise rate, you must mention to the professionals that you are a member of Miners’ Promise.



Mining Emergency Rescue Competition – Perth

The inaugural Mining Emergency Response Competition (MERC) was held in Perth over the 3rd and 4th December 2011. The competition provided an valuable opportunity for Emergency Response teams to demonstrate their skills through a range of Emergency Response scenarios.

It has been a long-term vision of Premier sponsor, Paull & Warner RECEO (PWR) to see a competition start in Perth. Fourteen teams from W.A. participated in seven events which included First Aid, Firefighting & BA Skills, Vehicle Extrication, Hazchem & BA Skills, Confined Space & BA Skills, Rope Rescue and ERT Readiness.

Sunrise Dam Gold Mine were awarded overall First place at the awards ceremony.

All proceeds raised via the MERC will be donated to ‘Miners Promise’. We would like to thank in particular PWR and the countless other sponsors who without their kind generosity, the competition would not have been possible.



Congratulations Helen Fitzroy – WA Local Hero 2012 Australian of the Year Awards

Helen Fitzroy lost her husband in a mining accident 20 years ago. Last year she assisted in setting up Miners' Promise and has been named WA Local Hero of the year for her work.

She was inspired to set up Miners' Promise last year when she met other families of mine accident victims, who were also in need of support.

"It alarmed me hugely that very little had changed, which was really the driving force behind me doing something about that."

"There are many gaps in terms of the support that's offered to families and I feel very passionate about making sure that the support that we provide through Miners Promise adequately meets families' needs."

"It's based on the principle that you help your mates. So while nothing may happen to you it could be that you are assisting somebody else's family."

Helen is now a finalist in the national awards to be announced on 25 January 2012 in Canberra. Well done Helen and good luck in January.

