

# VERTEX COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## General Manager's Update

Welcome to the first Vertex Community Newsletter for 2025. Since seeing most of the Village at our Open Day in January, we have been busy at the Reward Gold Mine, operating our plant and making improvements. We have started operating seven days a week with four people on each crew in our mill. Our underground team is also growing, with Dennis (Shift Boss and Airleg Miner) and Dan (Jumbo Miner) working with Mick (Driller) and Shannon (Drill Offsider).

We have our new Jumbo (Drilling Machine) arriving in mid-May, which will be when we start mining underground with our existing truck and loader. Before then, we need to make our access slightly bigger. This will require some small blasts, which should not be felt in the village. We have recently installed blast monitoring units (more information below) to ensure we understand the impact of this initial blasting. We will also soon be installing electrical substations and ventilation fans underground. Gillard's Adit, which was where we went underground on our open day, has been freshly painted, with new doors so it can be our future explosives magazine.

We will grow our workforce to around five people working underground, on dayshift initially, by mid-May alongside our four operation mill crew members.

*Chris Hamilton*

## Water Usage at Vertex

Water security is an important issue in Hill End. Vertex is currently drawing water from the underground outflow from our portal. Vertex holds a license to use 40 megalitres per year from this water source. This outflow is monitored quarterly, with samples sent to an external laboratory for testing. These results are reported annually to the EPA as a requirement of our Environmental Protection License, and are published on our website.

Water from two bores is also being utilised. These bores are Upper Boogong and Kitty's Flat. Vertex holds a license to use 15 megalitres per year from each bore. Extensive conditions are associated with water use from these bores, all of which Vertex must follow to comply with regulations from WaterNSW and DPIE.

Vertex is also in the process of acquiring a surface water access license to draw up to 57 megalitres per year from the Turon River. Again, this license has strict conditions to adhere to.



## New Environmental Monitoring Equipment Recieved

Vertex has received the first of its new environmental monitoring equipment. Two semi-portable blast monitoring units have been acquired and installed by field technicians from Acoem. This will allow us to ensure our operational activities are not negatively affecting the community or environment. The blast units will be followed by dust monitoring and noise monitoring units.

## Reward Community Consultative Committee (RCCC)

We held our first RCCC meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, at the Hill End Lodge. This was a great opportunity for close collaboration and discussion with two local members, Cara George and Learna Hazeltine. Positive conversation was held around mine operations and clear community communication/engagement. We will be expanding the committee to cover a broader community profile for the next RCCC meeting, to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

We are working to add a page to our website ([vertexminerals.com](http://vertexminerals.com)) where the minutes from these meetings will be published, along with electronic copies of this newsletter for anyone to access.

### Meet the Team:

Casey Robinson - Environmental Advisor



#### What does your role involve?

*As the environmental advisor I look after all the necessary environmental monitoring and reporting (water, dust, noise, blast etc.) to ensure Vertex's operation is compliant with government regulations*

#### What is your professional qualification or trade?

*Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) - Environmental*

#### What career path led you to Reward Gold Mine?

*After completing my degree at the University of Wollongong in November 2024, I wanted to pursue a career in the mining industry*

#### What do you enjoy about your job?

*I enjoy being able to get outside and travel around the local area to complete my monitoring*

#### What is the most challenging part of your job?

*So far, it has been learning all the ins and outs of the various government agencies and their reporting requirements*

#### What do you like to do in your downtime?

*I enjoy going to the gym and anything outdoors*

02/04



The arrival of a new JCB426 front end loader increases the ability of our operation to handle the throughput demand of the processing plant. This loader will meet the design demand of the plant of around 25 tonnes per hour.

## April/May Recipe

### Cele & Lil's Floor Feast Surprise

#### Ingredients:

- 1 stolen butter stick (thanks Cele)
- 3 floor kibble rejects
- 1 sock (Lil's contribution)
- Crumbs of unknown origin
- Optional: cat's dignity

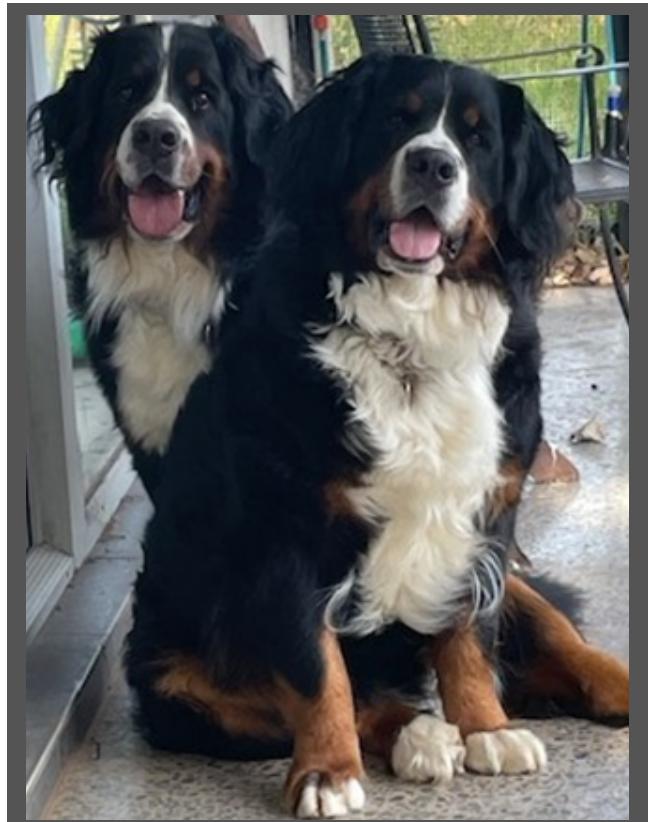
#### Instructions:

1. Cele knocks it down.
2. Lil taste-tests everything. Twice.
3. Stir with tail.
4. Serve on the rug.
5. Bark like its gourmet.

#### Reviews:

- Cele: "Would eat again."
- Lil: "Already did."
- Georgie: *screaming in background*

Bon(e) appétit! 🐶🌟





Quick thinking by Vertex employees Mick and Casey to recognise a local gentleman's nearby property on fire and put it out with Vertex vehicle fire extinguishers



Above: Local kangaroo joining the Vertex prestart safety meeting

Left: GM Chris and Senior Mining Engineer Tom with some great artwork and letters received from the students of Hill End Public School.

Right: Mill operator Lateisha running the plant.



04/04