

VERTEX COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



General Manager's Update

Welcome to the October/November Issue of our Newsletter. Wow, I can't believe how fast the year has passed! As can be seen from the shiny new equipment photos, we are starting to get into the business end of our operation. The new Aramine loader will allow us to remotely bog broken ore from the Stopes (see below for definition). Our new jumbo is long hole drilling, the second jumbo is creating new tunnels and our air-leggers are breaking ore in their stopes.

We have started building bunding down the whole length of our access track, to help make it safer for our workers to drive to the plant. ICE contractors have also started moving material at the sands dam for the final designed landform.

With the installation of our first aid room, training most of our workforce in First Aid and the upcoming Mines Rescue training for 10 of our employees, we are ensuring we have a safe workplace. Also to help reduce the number of cars on our roads, Vertex are now running a bus from Bathurst for our 6am to 6pm employees.

We will shortly be submitting a DA with Bathurst Council to continue our current hours in the mill, and applying to extend underground hours to 24 hours if required and blasting times to 9am to 6pm. Our larger blasts will be between midday and 1pm to minimise impact. We will continue communicating with the village closer to submission and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Chris Hamilton

Mining Language Explainer - What is a Stope?

A stope is mining term for an underground space created when ore is mined from a vein or ore body. It's essentially a hollow area where the valuable ore has been removed. Stopes can be large or small, and their shape depends on the ore body. Stopes are a key part of Vertex's underground operation mining because they are where the majority of the high-grade ore is taken out. Two types of stoping will occur at the Reward Gold Mine, Longhole and Air leg stoping.

Longhole stoping is completed when the Jumbo drills long holes into the ore body from a level above or beside it. These holes can be 10 to 30 meters deep. Explosives are then loaded into the holes and detonated, breaking the ore into smaller, manageable pieces. The broken ore falls to the bottom of the stope, where it is collected and hauled away for processing using remote control loader, before being backfilled with waste rock.

An air leg stope is another type of underground stope, but it uses a more manual method for extracting ore. In this approach, miners use a handheld rock drill, mounted on a leg powered by compressed air, called an "air leg", to drill short holes into the ore.

New Underground Loader

Our new Aramine 350D underground loader has finally arrived in the country from France! It is currently in Orange getting fitted with the remote control systems. This will allow the operator to drive the loader from the remote control chamber, which is much safer and more comfortable. The two images below show Vertex Executive Chairman Roger inspecting the outside and inside of the remote control chamber. The image to the right shows the size comparison between our small underground loader and an Epiroc ST18, a regular sized underground loader you would see at operations like Cadia.



Meet the Team:

Glenn Colgan - Process Superintendent



What does your role involve?

Supervising Process Plant Operations, improving Plant recovery, Plant throughput and reducing downtime.

What is your professional qualification or trade?

Electrician by trade, with 30+ years of experience in mineral processing, mainly gold.

What career path led you to Reward Gold Mine?

Looking for new challenges

What do you enjoy about your job?

Helping team members learn about gold processing, being a small team and getting to meet new people

What is the most challenging part of your job?

It's bloody cold

What do you like to do in your downtime?

I like to play golf, and watch the Melbourne Storm win league games.

Mines Rescue

Starting in October and continuing into the new year, 10 Vertex employees will begin a structured Mines Rescue training program. The initial focus will be on Advanced Casualty First Aid and Confined Space/Heights Rescue, building essential skills for emergency response in challenging underground environments. This marks a significant step toward ensuring the highest standards of safety preparedness across our operations. Once completed, the training will equip the team with the knowledge and practical experience needed to respond effectively to a wide range of potential incidents. This supports site safety, and allows us to assist with incidents at other mine sites in the area, if necessary.

ANU Geology Students Visit Reward Gold Mine



Senior Geologist Julian hosted eight keen Geology students from Australian National University (ANU) on site a couple of weeks ago. The students were able to look around site and visit underground to view the unique geology of the Hill End area. The trip was a great chance for the students to experience an active mine site, and take advantage of Julian's wealth of knowledge as an experienced underground geologist.



(Left to Right)

Top: Some of the team at a First Aid training course in Bathurst + Works beginning on the Sand Stack landform construction.

Middle: Vertex Director Declan Franzmann and GM Chris Hamilton in front of the new Aramine 350D underground loader + Shane cooking the Thursday morning safety meeting bbq + Some gold bearing quartz veins

Right: Gold concentrate being run across the Gemini Table

