

VERTEX COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



General Manager's Update

Welcome to the second Newsletter for 2026, it was great to see so many of you at our Vertex Family and Friends open day, where we were able to share the experience of a day working at the Reward Gold Mine.

Our DA application to modify our working and firing hours has undergone the exhibition and feedback stage, and we are now working with Bathurst Regional Council and other Government bodies on the required next steps in this process. We will continue giving updates via our emails and flyers.

You may have seen a helicopter flying around site, which was completing works to remove material from Hill End Creek.

Our workforce now sits at around 48 people, with 8 of these continuing training in the Emergency Response Team, the most recent training utilising Breathing Apparatus (CABA), following the earlier training on advanced first aid. These skills will hopefully never be needed either at work or at home. Mining works underground are rehabilitating the declines to access lower ore bodies and "flat back" mining on Decline 3. The mill is seeing better recoveries from the Tomra ore-sorter, with over 99% of quartz removed as we mine the "Mica", "Star of Peace" and "Paxton's" Orebodies.

Chris Hamilton

Mining Language Explainer - What is an Airleg?

An Airleg is an underground pneumatic rock drill, used to drill holes which are filled with explosives and fired. Airlegging is an old mining technique utilised in smaller, narrow mines like the Reward Gold Mine. Once the ore has been fired, airleggers utilise a scraper to pull the material into an orepass, before it is bogged with the loader and trucked out to the processing plant.

Vertex has five airleggers on site: Matt, Jenno, Easto, Bluey and Benny.



Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team has undergone more training, completing 'Underground Search and Rescue' training, achieving their Certificate III in Emergency Response & Rescue. The team spent 8 days training underground under full Open Circuit Breathing Apparatus.

The team also completed a mock emergency, utilising their advanced first aid and ropes rescue skills to respond to a casualty in an airleg sub-level.



Meet the Team:

Tom Cowan – Senior Mining Engineer



What does your role involve?

I am responsible for designing and planning the accesses to the mine's ore bodies and determining how we extract them. I plan the short term day to day operations through to producing long term multi-year mining plans. To do this I use a 3D CAD program called Deswik, this allows you to see the mine and plan it in 3D. I also monitor and manage the mine's ventilation system, which supplies fresh air to the working face. The mine is unique in Australia as it has an underground fan which draws air in from both the Amalgamated Portal and down the Reward Shaft, the air is then exhausted through the old workings which were mined in the late 19th century.

What is your professional qualification or trade?

Bachelor of Engineering (Mining), Graduate Diploma – Mine Ventilation, Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)

What career path led you to Reward Gold Mine?

I started in the mining industry as an environmental officer in the mines at Broken Hill, then moved to Mudgee where I was an Operator and Mining Engineer at Ulan Underground Coal Mine. From there I moved across to underground hard rock mining at Tritton Copper mine near Nyngan as a Mining Engineer

What do you enjoy about your job?

I think of the mine as giant 3D puzzle. I come from a mining background where everything is big and 'off the shelf', here everything is small and none of the usual equipment is suitable. To solve simple problems you have to think further afield and be far more resourceful.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The Reward Gold Mine requires a complete mining mindset change, where everything requires an 'out of the box' solution.

What do you like to do in your downtime?

When I get a spare moment between my primary aged kids, renovations and a newborn I enjoy the outdoors. I am either on my bike or out camping.



Polaris Bomb Buggy - 'The Pit Pony'

Vertex have received their specialised underground explosives transport vehicle, a customised Polaris side-by-side. The vehicle is designed to fit the narrow drives in the Reward Gold Mine. Vertex spent months working with a fabrication company and the NSW Resources Regulator to ensure the design meets all regulatory requirements.

Vertex's Polaris is the first Category 2 explosives transport side-by-side in the country.

2026 Vertex Family and Friends Open Day

The Vertex open day was held on the 14th of March. The day was successful, with around 50 people coming along. The visitors were able to have a look around the site and even venture underground with a guide in a Kubota side-by-side, to experience what it is like to work in an underground mine. Visitors consisted of Hill End locals, Vertex staff friends and family and even some travelers visiting Hill End. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a successful and fun day!



Top: Julian celebrating his birthday in the office, Pete and Henry studying for ERT, Visitors underground on open day
Middle: Ayla and family in the Kubota ready for a tour, Julian getting interviewed, More open day visitors
Bottom: Open day tour group, Vertex team on the open day, Helicopter lifting operations