

VERTEX COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



General Manager's Update

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! Our processing plant is now a year old and we have been steadily improving both our underground mine and the plant over this time. Glenn and Rob have been fine tuning the Tomra sorter in the plant, with steady improvements in this process allowing the processing of only the quartz. Vertex have hosted groups from Queensland keen to borrow this technology and use at their mines.

Underground we have rehabilitated the Northern Decline (Decline 3) and will start mining by "Flat Back" with the jumbo. We have also recently fired some higher grade stopes and bogged with our remote control loader. We have included a flyer with this newsletter about blasting vibrations, showing the vibration levels needed before risking damage to neighboring buildings. Vertex has 2 vibration measuring stations at Hill End, we are currently recording vibrations well below any risk to structures.

Our DA application should be released for comment from the community and other stakeholders in early February, with some fine tuning delaying it slightly.

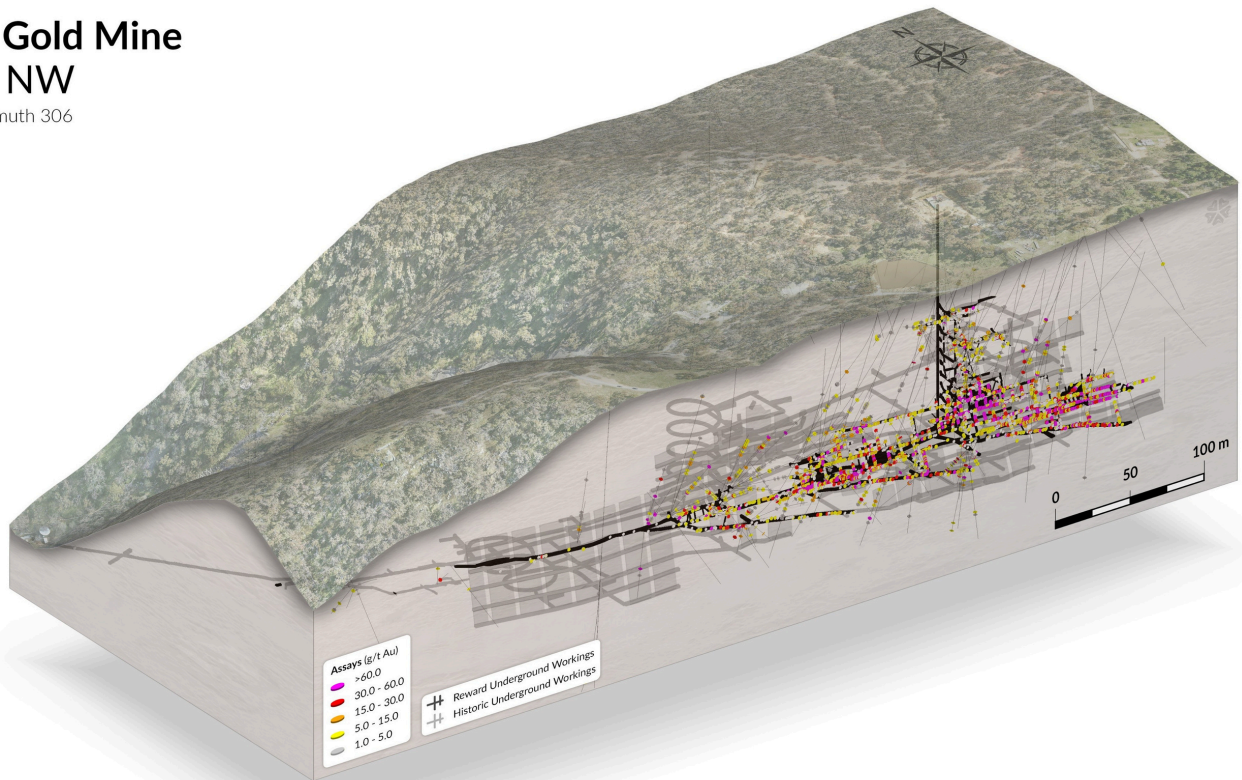
As shown in photos below, we have continued training some of our team in mines rescue and we will have all employees with a senior first aid cert by February.

We look forward to seeing you at our Family and Friends Day in March.

Chris Hamilton

Reward Gold Mine Looking NW

Plunge +27 | Azimuth 306



UNDERGROUND WORKINGS

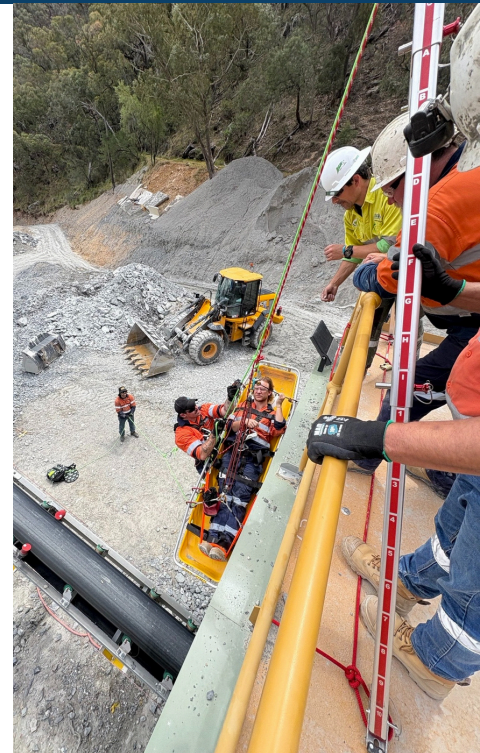
The above image is a great visualisation of the extent of the underground workings at the Reward Gold Mine. The black areas are the existing workings, some of which have been established for over 100 years. The grey areas show the extent of the proposed workings that will be completed within the life of the Reward Gold Mine. The image shows that the proposed works do not extend far past the existing workings.

MORE MINES RESCUE TRAINING

The mines rescue team completed another unit of their training, spending a week doing Vertical and Confined Space Rescue training. The team learnt how to safely retrieve a patient from a tight space, perform ropes rescues, operate a Breathing Apparatus, utilise different rescue gear and understand hours of rescue theory.

Left: Luke and Tom practicing rope rescues.

Right: Henry performing a stretcher rescue



Meet the Team:

Chris (Hammer) Hamilton – General Manager



What does your role involve?

The GM role can be everything, no day is the same. Being a new Mine, I host lots of interest from the community and Investors, as well as ordering new equipment and day to day problem solving. Mining is a very safety conscious industry, there are a lot of checks and balances.

What is your professional qualification or trade?

I graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelors Degree in Engineering in 1999. I also hold a NSW Mine Managers Ticket. For around 6 years I was an examiner for Mine Managers and Shift Bosses in NSW. Underground Mines have taken me all around Australia and study trips to South Africa, Zambia, Canada and Sweden.

What career path led you to Reward Gold Mine?

After around 9 years working in the Cobar region as a Mine Manager, I was looking for something different and close to home. Re-opening the Reward Mine, hiring a new team and mining in new ways excited me.

What do you enjoy about your job?

The People. We are fortunate to have a great team where everyone is pulling together to make the Mine achieve again.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

The People. Everyone is different. As my old boss said everyone has a go button, some are on the top of their head, others are located on their butt!

What is your nickname?

I've had a few! Hammer (current), Hammer time, Big Bird, Spam, and my favorite – Ya Long streak of Pelican Poo!

What do you like to do in your downtime?

Sleep! and hanging with Georgie and my 2 Dogs

REWARD GOLD MINE - 2026 FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY

Vertex is hosting its 2026 Family and Friends day!

When: 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Saturday 14th March 2025

Where: 6 Bowen Street, Hill End

We welcome all community members, family and friends to join us for a BBQ and activities on site. Tours will leave from 6 Bowen St. at set times and run for roughly 1.5 hours. If interested in attending a tour wear long pants and covered shoes. For more information and to RSVP, check out the F+F Day flyer!



REFUGE CHAMBER INSTALLATION

As we continue to grow our underground infrastructure, the next piece of the puzzle is in place. The refuge chamber has been installed and wired up. This piece of equipment is essential safety feature of the mine. The chamber provides fresh air and shelter for anyone who might require it in an emergency situation.

Above: Col in front of the refuge chamber



1st row: Tom looking at gold going across the table + New Director Jim with Tully and Roger on site + Chambo with the refuge chamber

2nd row: Refuge chamber going underground + the jumbo at work + Roger on the JCB underground

3rd row: Charlie visiting the office + confined space rescue training + Henry and Luke simulating a search in a smoke filled room

4th row: Chris and Tully taking VIPs underground + the team at the Vertex Christmas Party at the Lodge