



# Inspirational leader

## Indigenous business honoured with award

DEBBIE Barwick is an inspirational leader in the indigenous business community and was rewarded for her efforts when Mandurah Hunter Indigenous Business Chamber won a NSW award for excellence.

Debbie is the chief executive officer of the Mandurah chamber, which won the award for the work indigenous leaders do for their communities.

She is also the chairwoman of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Indigenous Business Council of Australia.

The Hunter chamber works closely with partners like the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council (AIMSC), referring indigenous-owned-and-operated businesses to the agency for certification.

"The certification ensures that indigenous businesses are introduced and promoted to government agencies and corporate members who have made a commitment to purchase indigenous products and services," Debbie said.

"We have a fantastic team here in the Hunter that do a great job working in indigenous communities."

Just to make sure she is never standing still, Debbie is also chairwoman of the Awabakal Newcastle Co-operative.

### HOTEL UPGRADES

THE Beach Hotel at Merewether is having a full-scale refurbishment and owner John Twohill also plans to build a multistorey development at the rear of the hotel.

The front of the pub is heritage listed and has been given a facelift within the confines of that listing.

Inside the hotel will be next on the refurbishment list.

Plans for hotel accommodation, residential units, an aged care

### The biz

**There is nothing that beats seeing the problems first-hand and talk to people like Craig and others about how the issues affect them.**

- State Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell on the campaign trail around the streets of Raymond Terrace.

facility or a combination of the three will also be discussed.

"We're still in the process of discussing a development at the rear of the hotel for multiple stories," John said.

"There will also be a large car parking facility of about 120 spaces with that."

Work has also started across the road from the Beach Hotel on the old Surf House site.

Developer Sailors' Rock had plans approved in 2009 for a new kiosk, restaurant and function centre on the beachfront site.

John said he was excited about the Surf House site being developed because he believed it would bring some of the trade lost to other parts of the city back to Merewether Beach.

Newcastle developer Keith Stronach owns part of Sailors' Rock and also has a development application in the pipelines for a function centre and kiosk at the former Newcastle City Bowling Club site at the top of King Edward Park.

### NETWORKING EXPERT

JOHN Carlisle from Flow Consulting will be the guest speaker at a business networking

TIRELESS: Mandurah chief executive Debbie Barwick with the award.  
- Picture by Peter Stoop



breakfast on January 19 at the Apollo Hotel at Charlestown.

The breakfast is being hosted by Lake Macquarie City Council in conjunction with the Business Growth Centre.

John has a 15-year history in human resources and organisational development and will speak about creating high-performance teams with practical applications for individuals and organisations.

Bookings can be made online and

the contact is Amanda Harvey on 4921 0309 or aharvey@lakemac.nsw.gov.au.

### MAKING INROADS

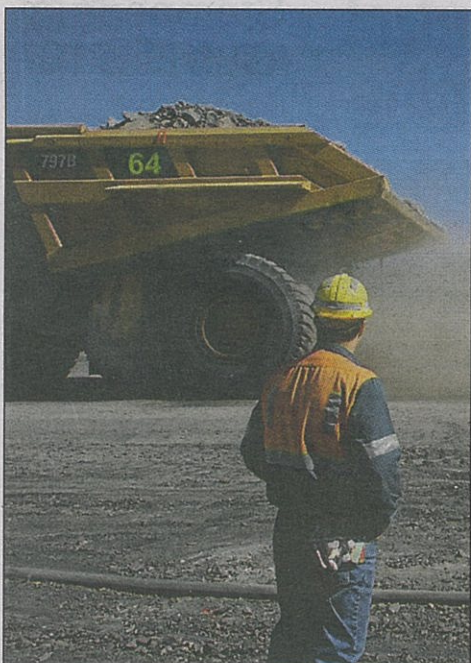
HUNTER-BASED manufacturing company Banlaw has taken some big steps forward in the last 12 months.

Banlaw expanded into the Australian market with the opening of an office in Malaga, Western Australia. Beau Temby was appointed regional manager and

Rod McIlroy was appointed business development manager.

The company also expanded into the overseas market, opening an office in Nevada in the US where Robbie Bent is vice-president of business development in North America.

Banlaw has 25 years experience in the mining, rail and port facilities and specialises in the design, manufacture and implementation of hydrocarbon management systems.



PRICE RISE: Demand for coal from Asian nations will be even greater this year.

### ASIAN COAL DRIVE

# Unprecedented demand for energy

STRONG demand from energy-hungry Asian economies will drive the price of thermal coal even higher this year, as wet weather continues to shrink supplies of major global coal producing regions.

Oil prices are also expected to rise, while analysts have broadly slashed their outlook for natural gas because of an oversupply arising from American coal-seam and shale-gas projects.

Coal is still the fastest-growing energy source globally, with demand rising 3 per cent last year.

The economies of India and China are behind the surge, offsetting weak economic growth in Western economies that could otherwise have led to a slump in world energy markets.

Financial services firm UBS

SINGAPORE'S economy expanded at a record 14.7 per cent in 2010 as the city-state recovered sharply from the previous year's recession.

It was the best performance ever for Singapore, surpassing the previous record 13.8 per cent growth achieved in 1970, and earned the city-state the distinction

said soggy conditions in the major thermal coal producing regions led to tightening supply last year, as La Nina dumped rain on Australia's east coast, Indonesia and South America.

"On the supply side, Indonesia is playing catch up," UBS commodities analyst Tom Price said.

### ECONOMIES GROW

of being Asia's best performing economy in 2010.

China, which is forecast to grow by about 10 per cent this year, is expected to release its full-year economic data in January, while Japan will give its preliminary figures in mid-February.

"They have had very high, unusually high rainfall, well beyond their wet season.

"By the end of the year when the Chinese started restocking heavily on Indonesian coal, the coal just wasn't there."

Indonesian thermal coal exports were down 15 per cent

last year after a protracted wet season, while coal from India was nine per cent below target because of the monsoon, and Colombian production was also down.

"Australia has underperformed in the thermal coal supply market for exactly the same reason - high rainfall," Mr Price said.

A severe coal shortage in China last month forced power cuts in the nation that relies on coal for 70 per cent of its energy needs.

Morningstar is forecasting the thermal coal spot price will average \$US110 per tonne this year, up from \$US88.75 last year, which was their estimate for the year as of December 16.

The spot price reached \$US123.50 this week, the highest since October 2008.