

The Promise

Autumn | 2014

Autumn - Time to Change & Grow

Dr Loretta do Rozario



Miners' Promise

your family our family

From Our Ceo |

I would like to firstly take this opportunity to welcome you to our first Newsletter for 2014.

The start of 2014 has been an extremely busy one for Miners' Promise and the remainder of the year is shaping up to offer more of the same. We have been busy preparing and planning to grow our business beyond our current WA operations as well as attempting to spend more time with you, our members; to ensure we remain an independent organization able to offer the best advice and support available. Furthermore we have been working with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission to have Miners' Promise officially recognized as a charity. We are hopeful of bringing our members and sponsors some exciting news in our next edition!

Since launching in July 2010, Miners' Promise has grown its membership base by over 250% in WA and Miners' Promise is now being recognized around Australia. Your support makes our work possible – thank you for joining with us. However we always welcome the opportunity to grow our family. Miners' Promise is an independent not for profit organisation established to support employees of Australia's resources and resource service sectors, and their families.

We offer personal support to meet the unique needs of each family, during the good times and the bad. This could be proactive support such as helping families prepare for their future through financial planning, making a will, or finding legal advice, or it could be helping families connect and spend quality time together through discounted tickets for movies, sports and entertainment activities.

Importantly, we support families if the very worst should befall them, whether this happens at home or in the workplace.

In these darkest of times that we rarely plan for, Miners Promise steps in, like a mate, and supports families in whatever way they need.

Membership is open to all within the resources sector and is only \$6.00 per week. As we work with a large number of companies already, it is likely your employer offers the opportunity to pay your membership fees via salary deduction, so if you know of someone who is yet to join our family, have them complete an application on line at www.minerspromise.org.au.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Easter. Regardless of age, I believe we all have fond childhood memories of the Easter Egg Hunt where highly perishable morsels of food were stashed

usually outside, generally for hours exposed to the elements (and usually our family pets) for us only to be sent out in a mad dash to gather as many as we could. Breakfast would generally consist of an egg (or 3) and I wonder how any of us survived past the age of 10.

Happy Easter!!!! – Cassie White



Cassandra White - CEO

In Memory Of |

Regan Opalinski

Regan Opalinski was a fit, 35 year old mine worker in Kalgoorlie with one nagging problem, his back.

As all chronic pain sufferers will know, the problem is rarely isolated. The constancy of the pain wears you down, pervades your life and affects your sense of well-being and self-worth.

For Regan Opalinski the chronic pain resulted in his company sending him home to rest and de-stress.

Delighted to be given the opportunity to heal, Regan decided to reconnect with one of his passions, dusted off one of his old motorbikes and took it out for a spin.

But just 25 metres from the home he shared with his partner, Angie Whitehead, tragedy struck. Regan hit a tree and died instantly.

For partner Angie, one unexpected outcome of this terrible tragedy was the realisation of just how close knit and kind the Kalgoorlie mining community was. From the people on the scene immediately near their home, to the company that Regan and Angie both worked for - help came from all areas.

But it is one group that Angie credits as being the quiet angels, working in the background to take the stress away of dealing with the practicalities in the aftermath of such a tragedy. This group was Miners' Promise.

Within days, a family liaison representative from Miners' Promise was on the ground in Kalgoorlie, helping with practical day-to-day chores Angie found almost impossible amidst the haze of her grief. Practical things like feeding the animals, changing the linen and cleaning the bathrooms to help out, as relatives from other parts of the state arrived.

"Someone from Miners' Promise was by my side from sun-up to sun-down," said Angie.

"Also, thanks to the generosity of Miners' Promise, I didn't have to somehow find the money for Regan's funeral; Miners' Promise covered it for me. The flowers for his casket, the booklets, even the music and order of service was sorted by Miners' Promise, once the family and I decided what we wanted."

"While the hard times are still ahead... the hardship that I may have had placed upon me financially was taken away by the generosity and support of Miners' Promise. I have been given time to grieve for Regan without the added stress of financial worry", she added

Cassie White, CEO of Miners' Promise said that it was a privilege to help.

"Being able to lighten the load for Angie encompasses everything Miners' Promise was established to do for its members. With her blessing, we've acted as her 'legs on the ground' in Perth dealing with bank and real estate tasks, so Angie can stay focused on herself and continue to work."

"She has also asked me to be the Executor of Regan's estate, a role I have been happy to take on. We will also continue to support Angie for as long as she needs the Miners' Promise family. Because that's what we do" said Cassie



Remembering the Miners' Promise |

A new memorial wall in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, will remember miners – young and old – who have died in the mining industry.

Miners who were as young as 12 and as old as 78 will be honoured on a memorial wall being erected in Kalgoorlie.

Between the youngest and oldest are another 1482 names engraved on the marble panels.

They will be officially unveiled on Labour Day by the Minister for Mines Bill Marmion and dedicated by the Archbishop of Western Australia Reverend Robert Herft.

The youngest casualty in the Eastern Goldfields was Michael Kinnane, a 12-year old lad killed in an earth fall in 1899 while working with his father in an alluvial mine at Kanowna, north of Kalgoorlie.

The next youngest were both 16 - Edward Webse and Gregory Abercrombie, both of Norseman. Webse was killed in 1940 and Abercrombie just 30 years ago, in 1984.

Fred Hocking, 78, was the oldest miner killed, in an accident at the Great Boulder gold mine on the Golden Mile in September 1919.

The memorial wall will cover losses in the Eastern Goldfields - from Wiluna to Southern Cross and south to Norseman and Esperance.

Research for the memorial by historian genealogist Moya Sharp and committee member Doug Daws shows a marked decline in the number of deaths.

Just as Anzac Day has become more than honoring the sacrifice of those killed in action, the miners' memorial is not just remembering those who lost their lives. It is a demonstration of improved safety in the West Australian mining industry.

Since the concept of the memorial wall was first raised a decade ago, there has been a dramatic improvement in safety. Some years are not listed on the wall – in stark contrast to the worst year, 1899, when 44 were killed. The next worst are the years 1900 and 1911, each with 38 names.

The memorial committee believes the state government and the industry have worked hard in recent years and the wall stands as testament to the success of those efforts so that families can expect their loved ones to come home from work.

With women legally barred from working underground until the second half of the last century, it is not surprising that of the 1484 names, only two are women.

During research for the memorial, the committee found many names that were not on the official list compiled by the Dept. Mines and Petroleum. They also discovered some gruesome, tragic tales. One such incident was the loss of six men at the Mount Charlotte gold mine in 1897. Not wanting to try and extinguish burning nitroglycerine, they tried to escape by climbing ladders to the surface, but lost consciousness and fell to their deaths.

Six miners were also killed in 1921 when the brake failed on the winder on the Golden Horseshoe mine.

The same number were killed in the Emu gold mine near Agnew in 1989, when the mine manager lost his own life when he went down the flooding decline to try and rescue his five workmates.

While six remains the worst single accident toll in Western Australia's mining history, that pales in comparison with the worst in the nation; 92 men and boys killed at a coal mine in Mount Kembla, New South Wales, in 1902.

The memorial wall is housed in the forecourt garden of the Museum of the Goldfields in upper Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie.

Written by John Bowler (Mining Monthly)



Thank you Newmont – Jundee |

We were honored to be recently invited by Newmont to their Jundee site.

The Emergency Services team hold regular promotional nights on site to demonstrate their emergency response skills to the wider site. It also gives employees an opportunity to compete against the Emergency Response Team in a series of skills challenges.

These challenges were designed to make the participants work together to achieve a common goal. A record number (for the ER Team promotional nights) saw 6 teams of 4 members step forth to pit their skills against the ER Team. It was a very entertaining evening seeing the teams being put through their various challenges.

The final placing's for the evening were:

1st Place	Hairy Leggers
2nd Place	Late Arrivals
3rd Place	Swickies
4th Place	Reach-a-rounders
5th Place	A-Team
6th Place	CPC

Newmont promoted Miners' Promise throughout these evenings and our CEO, Cassie White was presented with a cheque for \$3,155.90 on the evening.

On behalf of Miners' Promise, thank you to all who donated during the evenings. Your support allows us to continue to support families in the resources sector.

Mentors Required |

Miners' Promise is pleased to announce that we are in the very early stages of developing a mentoring program that our members and those of our families can apply to be a part of.

Mentoring offers kids who has a parent in the resources sector, or who has lost a parent due to illness or accidents a supportive, caring and non-judgmental relationship. We believe this can assist our mentees participate in events and social activities to enhance their growth and self esteem.

The aim of the program is to provide consistency and stability in the life of a child or a young person without intruding in the family structure. Your role as a mentor is to provide the individual with healthy options for dealing with the challenges that presents us all daily.

However before we put any of this in place we need our family members to step forth and become mentors.

The program is open to both males and females aged over 18 years of age. Although in conceptual stage at present additional information will be provided in the next issue of The Promise. However to express your interest* please email temby.fitzroy@minerspromise.org.au with your details.

** Please note that this does not commit you to, nor guarantee your acceptance in the program.*



MY FIFO Family & Miners' Promise |

We are excited to announce a new edition to the Miners' Promise support service family – My FIFO Family.

My Fifo Family is dedicated to helping make the FIFO / DIDO lifestyle choice a sustainable one by providing families with fun and engaging resources such as calendars, books and activity packs that you can use in your own home to help your children better understand and adapt to the FIFO lifestyle.

With a number of parents feeling guilty or stressed by the behaviour their child displayed when the working away parent left or whilst they were away; and in an attempt to help my own children adjust and understand to having their father away, I decided to create some child friendly resources to fill this gap. With the support of Ngala, several child psychologists and many concerned parents, My Fifo Family was born.

Their first product, the FIFO kids calendar, is used in over 8000 homes across Australia contains over 1000 stickers for children to create a visual understanding of the FIFO routine, along with activities to help them understand why the parent is going, where they are going, what they do and of course when they will be back.

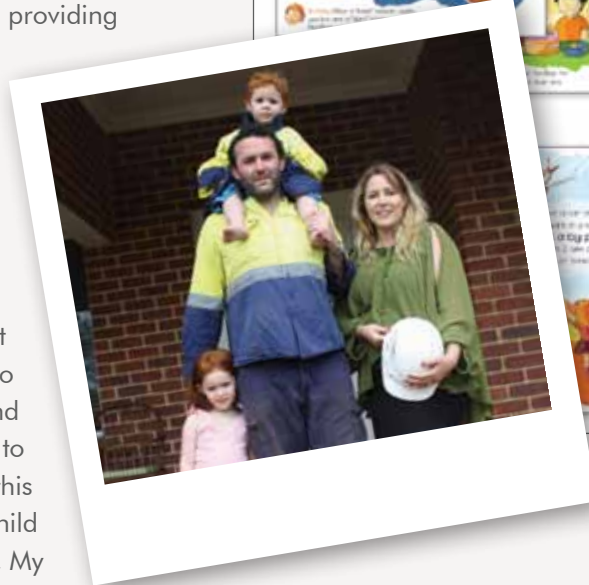
Children, especially those between the ages of 2-7, are able to better control their emotions towards one parent leaving when they have an understanding of why they are going. This in turn reduces stress on both parents. Trying to peel a screaming child from your leg whilst trying to board a flight can be heartbreaking for all involved and not the best start to a period of time apart.

Not only does My Fifo Family offer practical resources such as books and Calendars, they liaises with a number of child health professionals, child psychologists, resource companies and working away parents and their children

I don't feel children need to know all the ins and outs of adult life however, as a FIFO mum of two young children having your children understand when their FIFO parent is away, where they are going and of course when they are returning, not only reduces stress from both parents but makes for a much happier FIFO life, states Deanne Hislop, MY FIFO Family

We are confident that as a member of Miners' Promise you will find the services offered by My Fifo Family beneficial and complimentary to your membership.

To order a copy of My Boomerang Dad or the 2014 fun family planner, contact the office on **1300 124 014** or temby.fitzroy@minerspromise.org.au



Congratulations Mr and Mrs Ford |

Our best wishes to Abby Nankivell and her fiancé Mitch Ford on their recent wedding. Their wedding was at last something to smile about following the tragedy which befell Abby's family with the death of her Brother in law and Mitch's best mate, Jordan Marriott-Statham, two years ago in a work place related fatality.

Our greatest wish for the two of you is that through the years your love for each other will deepen and grow so much, that years from now you will look back on your wedding day, as the day you loved each other the least.

We here at MP know you're going to be happy together for many years to come, and on behalf of your extended resources family, we wish you both the very best for your future life together.

Thank you for allowing us to be apart of your special day.



DEATH AT WORK: IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Did your loved one die as a result of a sudden work-related injury?

If so, we would like to learn about how you and your family were affected by the death and the challenges you faced afterwards.

Thousands of family members become survivors of a sudden work-related death each year but little is known of how the death and the responses of government and other organisations affect them.

You can make a real difference to this situation.

We would like to invite you to participate in this world-first Australian Research Council funded study that will pinpoint ways to improve support for partners and families following work-related tragedies.

Results will be used to improve and better manage the consequences of work-related deaths for families.



Click here to participate in this study:

[Workplace Death Study survey](#)

For more information:

W sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/research/workplace-death

E lynda.matthews@sydney.edu.au

T 0415 898 398



facebook.com/Workplace Death Study



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



UNSW



“What lies behind us and
what lies before us are
small matters compared
to what lies within us.”

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Come see us!



Our Contact Details |

Postal Address:

PO Box 2738
Clarkson WA 6030

Come and see us:

4B, 1 Wise Street, Joondalup WA 6027

By phone | Email:

1300 124 014

Press 1

Temby Fitzroy
Membership and Administration Co-Ordinator
temby.fitzroy@minerspromise.org.au

Press 2

Cassie White
CEO
cassandra.white@minerspromise.org.au

After Hours | Emergency

0412 314 416

www.minerspromise.org.au



Find us on
Facebook