

# THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



## NEWS IN BRIEF

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Whilst the seriousness of the pandemic is still at the forefront of everyone's mind as it takes a turn for the worst over East and Worldwide, here in WA we are optimistic about better times ahead. Our state is feeling the early effects of the government's economic stimulus packages and **KEE** Group is working hard across all areas to maintain altitude in a very uncertain time.

We're happy to announce that our Port Hedland branch is open for business, and already pumping out meticulously prepared gear delivered by the ever-reliable **KEE** crew. Damon and I give huge thanks to our teams, suppliers, and clients for your many efforts.

**KEE** Group Northern Command (KGNC) will not only be great for our clients, but our ability to service the Pilbara will prove effective and efficient for the North West.

Our launch is also in conjunction with our new website, created by Lethal and our very own Katharyn Quinn. New brochures and stubby-holders have been designed too, so look out for them as they wing their way to all corners of this mighty state.

**Clayton Spiers, Director**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **KEE Hire:**

**KEE** Group is powering into the Pilbara, establishing a full hire and service branch in Port Hedland. We have listened to our many clients who asked us to expand throughout the region and we can now offer the value-added opportunities that have made us the 'go-to people' for project mining and construction hire throughout WA.



**KEE** Mechanic Kamal Mann bottle-feeding 3 month old orphan 'Francesca'.

## TEAM BUILDING WITH JOEYS

Amidst the dusty, dry parched earth of Port Hedland and the Rio Tinto salt mines, lay a small unassuming animal paradise. Ten years ago, a local lady set up a sanctuary to rescue, rehabilitate and release kangaroos back to their natural habitat. Unfortunately, as many of us are aware, hundreds of joeys are orphaned due to their mothers being hit and killed by cars and trucks on the roads.

It's always inspiring seeing how human kindness towards not just others but our harmless Australian animals bring out the smiles and softer side of even the hardest KEE mechanics. We organised a 6 am team-building experience which I will never forget, and judging by Kamal and Connor's faces, nor will they. It was truly inspiring and I implore anyone passing through to show support to this incredible sanctuary.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

As animal-loving Ozzie's, please take a look at our interview with the founder of the retreat, Lisa Rose, as she shares her knowledge of how you could help save the life of a kangaroo, visit our website: [www.keegroup.com.au](http://www.keegroup.com.au)

Clayton Spiers, Director

Our directors have close and direct relationships with **KEE** suppliers, who respond promptly to our requests. Recently we were able to add to our fleet six ADT dump trucks along with three ADT water trucks and four wheel loaders, for immediate delivery to one of our clients. This would not have been possible without the support of our valued suppliers.

Mal McDonald, KEE Business Manager

### KEE Surfacing:

This year has been a very different end to the financial year. Whilst I could write about the success we have had across the state, instead, I would like to make mention the reason why I am so proud to be a part of **KEE**.

At the end of March 2020, we were hit with COVID 19, this affected a lot of businesses, not only across the state but also across the nation and worldwide. Families were left to fend for themselves, joining an overcrowded line at Centrelink, uncertain of their futures.

**KEE** had a different approach. They ensured they did everything in their power to keep all employees and their families safe.

- **KEE** did not lay one staff member off
- **KEE** did not reduce anyone's wages.

**KEE** as a business put its staff first, financially supporting the business during these tough times to assure every single employee felt secure.

On behalf of all of the surfacing team, I would like to say a big thank you to the Directors for keeping our jobs safe. We are fortunate to be part of the **KEE** family.

Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing Manager

### KEE Fuel:

WA is back in business. As long as we keep our borders closed we can try and get back to the "new normal".

To help kick-start WA's economy, the METRONET project is coming online, and the timing for WA could not be better. With our partner Bundu, **KEE** Fuel has recently been awarded the refuelling on two of the main lines by the NEWest Alliance.

LEFT: Look out for our new stubby-holders







Director Clayton Spiers (centre), is pictured with our KEE mechanics and transport crew in the new Wedgefield yard.

## KEE'S NORTHERN EXPANSION

**Mid July, KEE Group took a lease of a 12,000 square metre yard in the red dust territory of Wedgefield Industrial Estate, Port Hedland.**

**With the help of two mechanics, two Belgian back-packers and two white (now orange) Pomeranians the yard was transformed from dust-pit to ship-shape workshop. We have hit the ground running, already hiring and transporting enormous pieces of equipment to the surrounding mining areas.**

**The silver-lining to everyone's tireless efforts is that we now have a great spot for our mechanics and transport operators, where they have a home from home; with a large lounge, kitchen, shower room, BBQ area and even a shaded garden for everyone to enjoy and unwind from the day. Come up and visit us soon!**

*"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."*

James Cash Penney, Founder of JC Penney

Part of this winning proposal included a fully paid traineeship to open up the fuel delivery business for what has in the past been quite a closed industry. As we embark on one of the biggest onsite refuelling contracts released in WA's history, we will change the life of a new indigenous family and welcome them into the fuel family.

We are fortunate to have one of the most experienced fuel teams in WA, and now thanks to NEWest Alliance, our crew has been given the opportunity to pass on their accumulated 100 years of experience to a select few fortunate individuals.

Some years ago, I was given a similar opportunity myself. When I was being trained by my boss at the time, Barney, he said to me: "This is my opportunity to pay respect to the people who trained me, take note young lad – I'm training you so you can pass it on to another one day".

Those words have resonated with me throughout my working life. Thanks Barney, this traineeship is also in part for you.

**Leigh Hayward, KEE Fuel Manager**

### KEE Transport:

With great credit to the WA State Government and the big mining groups, the steps they have taken to protect our great state have paid dividends. We have been able to continue on and actually grow throughout this unprecedented COVID 19 crisis.

With a couple of positive news announcements coming out of KEE this month, the outlook is looking good. With Port Hedland and Albany yards coming online, our ability to service the industry over the entire state has now reached a new high. We can not be more excited to see the results of the incredible hard work our team has been putting in behind the scenes to make this all possible.

Additionally, the increased growth has led us to expand our fleet once more, and we purchased two new Drake Trailers along with matching new Mack Superliners. It will be impossible to miss these two machines rolling through a town near you!

**Nathan Terrell, KEE Transport Manager**

# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

RAIT SAGOR, KEE PROJECT ENGINEER



## KEE'S WORLD RECORD HOLDER

Estonian born Rait (pronounced 'right') Sagor is one of our top project engineers. He bears a striking resemblance to a young Arnold Schwarzenegger, not only in physique but also with his no-nonsense, deadpan accent. The thirty-year-old also just happens to hold a World Record.

Born in the small country village of Asuka, to a fishing captain father and a factory inspector mother, at the incredibly young age of 13 he had to move out of his family home so he could attend a more academic school in town. He shared a room in a rental house with his auntie, Merike, who was only 16. "I had to grow up pretty quickly and take responsibility for myself, as my auntie was also very young," he said.

On the first day at the new school, he was challenged to an arm-wrestle with one of his class-mates. "I beat him and then others wanted to try". After beating the entire class, the older boys also wanted to challenge him, some of them were two years older. "I took the challenge on and beat them too, I think this is where I picked up the bug for competing. I loved the win and my passion for Powerlifting began."

From the age of 14 to 17, Rait worked throughout the school holidays as a labourer so he could earn enough money to compete. Jaan Salu, the owner of the local gym, became his mentor and fitness instructor, and 17 years to this day, he is still his coach. After leaving school Rait studied engineering and gained a degree in Road Construction and Bridges. During the four years, his study was interrupted when he was called up for National Service. "I loved the discipline and routine of the Army," he said, "We camped out in forests for training and the temperatures went down to minus 20. Our clothes would get wet during the day from rain, snow, and sweat and we had to sleep with our wet clothes in our sleeping bag in the hope they would dry out the next day. I also learned to sleep on my rifle to keep my back off the frozen ground". He lived like this for 11 months, living on ration-packs, sleep-deprived, and earning just 100 Euros per month.

Rait competed in his first Powerlifting World Championships in 2007, and incredibly, he won. He won the title *again* in 2008. He is a multiple medalist for IPF World and European Championships. From competing at such a high level, Rait learned to be self-disciplined. He has brought that attitude to his work at **KEE**. "It is in my nature to be competitive, to be the best, to never give up," he said, "If someone is better than me, I want to learn how to improve to get to their level. When I first started operating the paver for **KEE** I asked for tips from all the main operators, that is how I bettered myself".

Rait competes in the Powerlifting 100kg Class, which is open to all men weighing under 100 kilos. In 2017 his Ozzie flat-mate suggested he entered a dead-lift competition here in Perth. He had four weeks to train. He won. When he was invited to train at a new gym, he looked at their record board and decided he would beat not only all gym records but all state records AND national records. The owner of the gym didn't believe him, but he focussed and trained hard and true to his word, after three months, Rait had beaten all Australian records in the 100kg Class. From that first competition in Australia, he has been undefeated in over ten competitions and he's twice won Over All Australian Champion.

Rait still holds the World Record with a total of 950kg. Unbelievably, with that score, he has beaten competitors in the 110kg Class as well! We are proud to say that Rait recently acquired his Australian Citizenship, so hopefully, he won't mind if we now claim him as our own Ozzie World Champion?!