

# THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



Photo by Aaron Stevenage

## NEWS IN BRIEF

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As 2020 comes to an end, we look back on some necessary opportunities taken as a Group as a result of this pandemic. Port Hedland is now fast becoming an essential backbone to our WA footprint. With the addition of two highly-skilled gentlemen, Trevor Booth, our new State Maintenance Manager, and Todd Fuller, our Port Hedland Branch Manager, two of the best are securely onboard, and we can confidently say bring on 2021 and all that you can throw at us, as the men and women at **KEE** welcome your challenge! To our magnificent team, we sincerely thank you for your superhuman efforts, and to our clients, suppliers, and many friends we offer our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

WA is our collective home and together we can overcome anything, this year proved that. 2021 will bring some further change and will be exciting for not only **KEE** Group but also our mighty state of WA.

**Clayton Spiers, Director**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### KEE Hire:

**KEE Hire** is continuing to power on in the Pilbara following the establishment of our branch mid-year. Success is driven by our clients who see **KEE** as a reliable and alternative supplier offering project-based support in equipment transport and mechanical services unrivalled in the market. **KEE Hire** has recently invested in new equipment across the fleet, which enables us to offer bigger equipment together with our already established mining and construction fleet throughout Pilbara.



## CHRISTMAS FACTS

- **Christmas Trees:** The tradition of Christmas Trees goes all the way back to ancient Egyptians and Romans, who marked the winter solstice with evergreens as a reminder that spring would return.
- **Trafalgar Square:** Every year since 1947, the people of Norway have gifted a 20 metre tall Christmas Tree to the people of London. They donate the tree in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during World War II.
- **St Nicholas:** According to legend, the fourth-century Christian bishop gave away his abundant inheritance to help the needy, and rescued women from servitude. His name was Sinter Klaas in Dutch, which later morphed into Santa Claus.
- **Decorations:** Tinsel was invented in 1610 in Germany and was originally spun from real silver, making it far from the chintzy decoration it is now.
- **What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? Santa walking backwards :)**

Source: [goodhousekeeping.com](http://goodhousekeeping.com)



Our depot in Port Hedland is staffed by reliable and pro-active management, along with a knowledgeable and experienced team of service personnel. Our general hire business has grown in the past two years from one hire controller to three welcoming Rodney Blakeman in Port Hedland. Rodney comes to us with a wealth of industry knowledge and understanding of plant and equipment.

Meanwhile, in Perth metro and surround, **KEE Hire** has been supporting the road/rail infrastructure and has offered a plethora of equipment to meet project demand.

Our new compaction fleet upgrade is starting to roll through the gate this month giving us a varied fleet of rollers to continue to support our clients.

The **KEE Hire** team would like to thank all our clients for their support throughout 2020 and we look forward to supporting your future projects and contracts.

**Mal McDonald, KEE Business Manager**

### KEE Surfacing:

This quarter, we have invested in updating our crew trucks with additional safety equipment. We have implemented smart Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) systems on all crew vehicles, to prioritise our continuing commitment to safety.

As part of our safety initiative, and in addition to our profiling machines, perimeter lighting has now been installed on our paving machines, to ensure exclusion zones are clearly identified.

On 13th November, Team **KEE** (pictured) competed in the prestigious AAPA Golf Day, at Wembley Golf Course. The whole industry looks forward to this yearly event, where everyone gets to have a bit of banter between fellow surfacing companies while enjoying the green. We were very happy to come away as the winning team, not only in the men's division but also in the women's division.

All of our teams have been very busy in the last quarter. **KEE Spray Seal** has been on a big campaign up in the Pilbara and is also currently in Williams sealing 140 kilometres of shoulder widenings from Williams to Armadale.

**KEE Profiling** has started nightshift on DownerMouchel, and on the freeway with 70 shifts set until completion. **KEE Asphalt** has been busy with night works, local government, and new works across the state.





## INDUSTRY NEWS

According to industry estimates, the hire and rental industry in Australia is worth more than \$5 billion. This includes over 6,000 businesses with more than 16,000 employees. Mining and construction companies are the main contributors to the industry and markets have seen these industries at their highest level since March 2020.

### **Iron Ore Gaining Great Strength**

The price of iron ore, while shaken by the initial impact of the pandemic, has been gaining strength and has now reached USD 136.29 a tonne, its highest level since September 2013 and nearly 50 percent higher than it traded at the start of this year.

### **Road /Rail Infrastructure Works**

The construction of METRONET and the associated program of works is the largest single investment ever in the public transport sector in WA. The 2019-20 WA budget allocated an additional \$266.6 million to METRONET over the forward estimates.

### **Major Projects**

The WA State government is accelerating major road projects and enhancing road safety through projects such as: \$215 million Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road, \$400 million Tonkin Gap extension, \$100 million for improving 1400 kms of road across WA

**WA is the only state in Australia to avoid a deficit during the pandemic..**

Next year's forecast of projects looks very promising for the whole industry.

**Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing**

### **KEE Fuel**

Seasons Greetings from the **KEE Fuel** team!

Well, it's that time of the year when we all see petroleum prices rise – seems this Santa bloke hasn't turned green and gone to battery power.... Still running on grass-fed deer that almost certainly emit methane – we just hope Greta doesn't spoil Christmas for the kids by saying "Shame on you Santa Claus!"

In all seriousness, apart from the usual festive season price rises the world should be welcoming rises in petroleum prices, as this is reflective of activity increasing as many places in the world attempt to lift their businesses out from the Covid-19 slump. Crude inventories worldwide are seeing larger than anticipated drawdowns of stock and oil is rallying in world markets due to this.

It may be counterintuitive. Personally, I hope for the world's sake we see petroleum pricing head back towards the "normal" as soon as possible so the world can rebound quicker than expected. Surely there is no better indicator of the world economies recovering than the price at the humble service station pump.

As we enter the new year, the world can surely look towards 2021 with a renewed hope and enthusiasm and leave 2020 behind as a memory and the world can perhaps focus on becoming friends again.

Best wishes to everyone, and bring on 2021!

**Leigh Hayward, KEE Fuel Manager**

### **KEE Transport:**

Having an efficient back-office team has proven to be a very important foundation for our success. We are pleased to welcome our newest office team member, Neil Casey. Neil has an impressive 25 years of experience in the industry and he will be our dedicated scheduler for our North West operations.

Our decision to base a large proportion of our fleet at our recently opened Port Hedland facility has brought many benefits and cost savings to our Pilbara clients. We can better manage client's movements, on and off-hires, freight requirements, and above all offer a comprehensive transport service across many sites and regions.

**KEE Transport** continues to invest in new prime movers and trailers. The new fleet brings plenty of benefits to the **KEE** business and ultimately to our clients.

"Action is the  
foundational  
key to success"

Pablo Picasso



# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

KAZUMI CHAPLIN, TRAINEE FUEL DRIVER



## KEE'S NEWEST RECRUIT

"The most inspiring person I have ever met is my grandfather," said KEE's newest recruit, Kazumi Chaplin. And there's a reason as to why the 18-year-old is so in awe. Akira Masuda is a real legend. At 85 years old, he is the oldest surviving Japanese pearl diver in Broome.

"At the age of 20, he left Wakayama Prefecture in Japan to seek work in Australia so he could send money home to his family," she said. "The Japanese were well-regarded by the pearling masters and he took on the incredibly dangerous job of diving for pearls." There is a powerful exhibition at the Broome Historical Museum, showing what these incredible men and women had to endure. In fact, the copper helmet the divers had to wear is displayed at the entrance of the museum.

"Many of his fellow divers died because of the poor equipment or from getting decompression sickness, known as the bends," said Kazumi, "They dived to depths of 50m carrying equipment weighing around 130kg, and wearing a copper helmet. It was so dangerous, it is a miracle he survived".

Mr. Masuda stayed in Broome and started a new life, marrying Evelyn, a local woman with Aboriginal heritage, and from there they started their own family.

Kazumi lived with her parents and siblings in Broome before moving to Perth to take on the role of trainee fuel driver in Perth. "It was my cousin who told me about the traineeship, she works for Rio Tinto and saw that KEE Bundu was looking for fuel drivers". The traineeship is an initiative of NEWest Alliance. Their procurement team put a submission into the government to fund a traineeship for an indigenous person. "The fuel business is an incredibly closed industry", said KEE Fuel Manager Leigh Haywood, "and we wanted to open it up". With contributions from Rob Carr, Duratec, Ertec, and BMD, KEE was able to get the ball rolling.

KEE Group's Craig "Yak" Bell has been a fuel operator for over fifteen years and, alongside Brian Richards, will help mentor Kazumi. "You never stop learning," he said about his career, "the job is continually changing." Yak generally starts work at 3.30am. "It's quite an autonomous job," he said, "the best practice is to stringently keep to the guidelines, there are no short-cuts in this game". Yak says the only way to ensure water-tight safety is to stick to the rules, to the letter. "Safety is paramount, this is what has been drilled into us, this is what we will teach Kazumi".

Kazumi is a very confident driver and passed her driving test the first time. She now has to complete a Heavy Goods Vehicle and a Dangerous Goods Licence before she can become a full-time fuel driver. The traineeship will take three years to complete.