

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



Pictured: KEE's new Lintec CDP5001M continuous asphalt mixing plant, aka "The Bandit".

NEWS IN BRIEF

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GUESS WHO?

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"Incredible things in the business world are never made by a single person, but by a team." — Steve Jobs.

This quote aligns closely with the KEE Group experience. Over the last few years, KEE has grown significantly, and our people across the board continually strive to do better for our customers.

It seems that every year, we set our employees another challenge that they embrace and conquer. In 2020, it was the setting up of our depot in Port Hedland. This depot has become a very important cog in the KEE Hire service getting us closer to a significant number of our customers and being able to react quicker to their needs.

2021 saw an additional 161 pieces of equipment purchased by KEE to add to the Hire fleet. This increased the number of machines in this division, and importantly added to the new, state-of-the-art equipment from the best manufacturers in the world. (I will also say that we added another 115 last year too!)

2022 saw the introduction of Basecourse Paving to our offering. This has enabled KEE to perform the building of roads from start to finish. Whether it is building the sub-base, base course or wearing course, KEE Surfacing has every process covered.

Now, in 2023, we have more exciting news with the addition of two new mobile asphalt plants that will take our surfacing



Pictured: One of our brand new Hitachi ZX490 Excavators working in Broome for Roadline, alongside our Bell Dump Truck

INDUSTRY NEWS

In what has been hailed as a "year of delivery" for the rail system, a staggering \$13.6 billion investment is set to revitalise the transport infrastructure. Notably, the highly anticipated Metronet program will receive \$5.9 billion of this funding.

Several significant milestones are expected to be reached in the coming months. The Yanchep rail extension, the initial platforms at the Bayswater station, and the addition of a Lakelands station on the Mandurah line are all projected to be completed by the end of this year. Furthermore, by the end of 2024, the completion of the Morley-Ellenbrook line is anticipated, along with the introduction of additional platforms and a bridge at Bayswater.

With a particular emphasis on regional development, a substantial portion of the investment, amounting to \$6.5 billion, will be allocated to enhance the state's road network. Out of this, \$5.3 billion will be directed towards regional areas, ensuring improved connectivity and infrastructure across the state.

Source: WA Government

teams to all new areas of WA. Through all of this, our team continues to deliver with smiles on their faces and with our customers in their focus.

To all of the KEE Team, we say thanks.
David Cox, Chief Executive Officer

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

Due to the amount of destruction caused from the flooding in the Kimberley earlier this year, a new bridge will be constructed at Fitzroy Crossing. In conjunction with KEE Transport, KEE Hire has already mobilised 12 machines to the Fitzroy Bridge Alliance to assist with the rebuild of the bridge. The long-term rebuild will involve lengthening and widening of the bridge, with site work already in action to restore the reconnection between the east and west Kimberley.

We have seen significant increases in demand in the first quarter. This growth is driven by several factors, including an increase in construction and infrastructure development across Western Australia and, due to the rising interest rates, a shift towards renting equipment rather than owning it.

Over the past three months, we have taken delivery of new dump trucks, loaders, water carts, diggers and tip trucks. All have now been supplied to our clients across Western Australia. Of these new additions, two were B45E watercarts. These are the first Bell OEM factory-built watercarts to land at KEE and they went straight out on long-term hires to Collie and Kalgoorlie.

A large percentage of these machines have been delivered direct from the OEMs in Perth to Roadline Contracting in Broome. We now have more than 20 machines in the area, giving us a greater presence with full support from Rudy and the team at Roadline Contracting.

We received a phone call recently from



Brandon is pictured after his first solo collection of a roller

KEE Transport:

The KEE Transport team congratulates Brandon Gibson on recently passing his driving test and receiving an MC licence. Brandon has been with the business for 18 months now, learning operation of the equipment for load and unload along with use of the tilt tray for local transport deliveries.

Brandon has proved to be a great asset to the business and now with his new skills he is able deliver both large and small units, from a roller on the tilt tray to large excavators on quad and dolly. By upskilling our team, we gain greater flexibility to complete urgent local movements and improve on service level and efficiencies.

Rachel 'A-Need-for-Speed' Beers, who featured in the last quarter's KEE Board, has transitioned to take on scheduling of the drivers. Beersy comes with a wealth of hire and transport knowledge and has hit the ground running. Sara Larrazabal has been completing the local transport scheduling and will be transitioning into admin and compliance to manage this across divisions.

Hale Preston-Samson, KEE Transport Manager



a local, advising us that you can't turn a corner in Broome without seeing a KEE Hire machine!

It would not be possible to provide the support of our equipment throughout WA without the hardworking men and women in our workshop teams located in Welshpool and Wedgefield.

Natalie Martin, KEE On-Hire Mgr

KEE Surfacing:

2023 has been a year of firsts for the team at KEE Group and the KEE Surfacing division. We have welcomed not one but two new mobile asphalt plants, landing us firmly in the asphalt domain. With these high-calibre plants, we can supply and operate in more regions than ever before, allowing us to better meet the needs of current and future clients.

Nicknamed the 'Bandit' by the K-Team, our new Lintec CDP5001M continuous asphalt mixing plant produces 50 tonnes of asphalt per hour. Due to the plant's compact nature, high mobility and flexibility (with a 2 ½ hr set-up time), we can rapidly mobilise Bandit and be mixing in no time. The plant is ideal for smaller projects and remote locations (for example, a new car park).

Not to be outdone, we can also introduce the beast that is 'Big Ginger', pictured left. This sustainable gem can produce up to 150 tonnes per hour, with the inclusion of recycled asphalt products and it is ideal for large-scale works such as a 200,000tn airport project. Our INOVA K-Team unit is now located in Neerabup and will support our works within remote and regional WA.

Anthony Serpo, Production Mgr



Do you recognise this man?! In a new segment, we will be publishing pics from the past. Can you guess who it is? We will reveal all in the next edition of the KEE Board!

morning tea fundraiser

KEE Group will be joining more than 500,000 other hosts across Australia for the Cancer Council's Greatest Morning Tea. It is our goal to raise as much money as we possibly can for this great cause.

To achieve this, we have a donation-entry potluck, a super-cool raffle, and a few other little fun games all in the name of giving a kick to cancer!

Please join us in the main boardroom at 10.30am, Friday 16th June.

Big thanks to our wonderful suppliers and to Anytime Plant Hire and Wolf Contracting for their generous donations.

"Success is never accidental"

Jack Dorsey, Internet Entrepreneur

KEE Fuel:

KEE Fuel and Transport is currently undergoing a transition to merge resources. These businesses will still run as separate entities, however to maximise efficiencies the businesses will share personnel to have cross utilisation and training across divisions and positions.

With the addition of some drivers across day and night shift on Fuel and also drivers on the Transport side, the teams are strongly resourced to keep up with a growing demand for services. Over time there will be greater cross training of some selected drivers to utilise across transport and fuel.

As the customer is key within KEE Group, Michael Thornton has recently been moved from a driving position to become our Customer and Strategy Manager. With his extensive sales knowledge and experience of day and night shift deliveries, he is the logical choice to assist with customer and fuel supply operations.

Through early interaction and foresight, we aim to have meaningful discussions to accurately scope projects and formulate best practice between our clients and operations teams to efficiently and safely complete onsite fuelling.

Hale Preston-Samson, KEE Transport Manager

Bevis Muller is perhaps the most humble and self-deprecating man you could ever meet. When told he was going to be our featured employee for this newsletter, he said there are probably far more interesting people to write about. But this is actually far from the case. So much so, that we couldn't fit his whole story onto one page! So here is the extra-long Employee of the Quarter profile, dedicated to our top Financial Accountant, Mr Bevis Muller..

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

BEVIS MULLER, KEE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT



BEVIS, A MAN YOU CAN COUNT ON

In the world of finance, where numbers rule and precision is paramount, Bevis Muller stands out as a unique and fascinating individual. At 55 years of age and with a wealth of experience under his belt, Bevis's journey has been far from ordinary.

Born in 1968 in Mutare, Zimbabwe (then known as Umtali, Rhodesia), Bevis spent his early years in a tiny town on the border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It was a tumultuous time, marked by mortar attacks during the independence war from 1975 to 1980. As a young boy, Bevis and his family would take shelter in the passages, away from the windows, seeking safety amid the chaos.

Growing up, Bevis was greatly influenced by his father, a school teacher who he says embodied true Christian values. "He lived a life of great integrity, and gave his opinion only if you asked him," says Bevis. His father's unwavering faith left a lasting impression on Bevis and it was his father's example that instilled in him the importance of humility and honesty.

"Although I grew up in a loving, Christian home, I was a loud-mouthed, rebellious teenager," he confesses. "At 17, I rolled my friend's car three times, racing another car in Harare. It was completely dangerous and reckless." Miraculously, Bevis was thrown out of the car and emerged unharmed, while his friend ended up in hospital. This life-altering experience helped to redirect his path. "I was careless as a teenager and I think the car incident served as a bit of a wake-up call," says Bevis, reflecting on what could have been. "The incident helped to sober my rebellious streak, and shortly after that I became a Christian."

Fast-forward a few years and Bevis began his professional path, qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1992. "It wasn't a straightforward office job," he says. "I was often sent to do audits in Mozambique; for example of the main fuel pipeline from Beira to Mutare." However, due to the ongoing civil war, they had to drive across Mozambique with an armed escort sitting on the back of the ute! While that was a rather extreme way to get to work, he says the audit partner, of course, would refuse to risk travel by car. "He would instead fly in on a chartered plane!"

Bevis then worked as a Finance Manager for a steel trading division before rising to the position of Group



Financial Controller. His expertise and dedication were recognised, but it was the economic instability in Zimbabwe that ultimately drove Bevis to emigrate. “Although I had a good job, by the time we left in December 2007, the inflation rate was well over 1000% per annum - more than 100% per month,” he recalls. “We had daily power cuts and water outages, and the unemployment rate was measured at 86%, so crime rates were inevitably on the rise, through sheer desperation.”

To give an idea of the worsening economy, in 2005 Bevis and his wife Gabby borrowed Z\$600 million to buy a house (1.5 acres, including a cottage for his parents). “Within 18 months of the loan,” he says, “I could have repaid it with a single bank note from my wallet.”

But while inflation erased their debt, at the same time it exponentially destroyed people’s savings and pension balances. “I believe the highest bank note ever recorded was the Z\$100 trillion note!” he says.

Bevis’s older sister now lives in the UK, after her family had to leave their farm when it was invaded by Mr Mugabe’s war veterans. His younger brother still lives in Zimbabwe. He stayed there after their parents died; his Shona (the local dialect) is as good as his English.

In 2007, Bevis and his family made the life-changing move to Perth, leaving behind the hardships of Southern Africa. Despite starting his first job for a transport company in a windowless container, Bevis found joy in being near the ocean. “I could not believe how beautiful and clean the city of Perth was when we arrived. We had jumped from one of the bottom ten cities in the world to one of the top ten. We felt truly blessed.”

Bevis says his life is enriched by his family. His wife has been by his side for over three decades, supporting him through thick and thin. Together, they have two sons, Matt (28) and Luke (24), and a grandson named Ezekiel (3). In 1997, the couple tragically lost their second son a day after he was born. A year later, Gabby gave birth to Luke, bringing new hope.

However, tragedy almost struck a second time. The family were visiting a neighbour’s house one day, and Luke, then four, was playing with the other children in the garden. The neighbour had recently installed a swimming pool, and as they were still filling it, the shallow end was dry and the deep end was only partially filled. Bevis recalled, “I went outside to check on them and found Luke lying on the bottom of the pool, looking up. It was horrifying,” he says. “By God’s grace, it must have just happened that exact minute as I pulled him out and he was shaken, but fine.” Understandably, the ordeal profoundly shaped Bevis as a person. “I think it has made me very protective of my sons, and now of my grandson.”

His life story is a reminder that amidst the numbers and spreadsheets, there is a human being with a rich tapestry of experiences and a strong love for his family. “My favourite place to be is wherever my grandson is! I love to be around my family, and Margaret River is one of my favourite places to holiday.”

Words by Katharyn Quinn