

# THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



Photo by Nick Iser

## NEWS IN BRIEF

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It has become our identity as Australians, to stand together in times of hardship. If the recent fires weren't hard enough on so many, the outbreak of Covid 19 really is testing us as a nation. Personally I am so humbled by how many friends of our KEE extended family are showing their support to Damon and myself and our dedicated team. Without naming those absolute champions individually, may I sincerely thank you and salute you all for digging-in when it's been required.

To our loyal team of 130, who depend on their jobs here at KEE, I want to make it clear that we are focussed on keeping the continuity of employment, our men and women are our primary concern. We need to support each other during this time and give thanks to not only our loyal clients, but also to our magnificent hard-working suppliers and sub-contractors.

Thank you.

Clayton Spiers, Director

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### KEE Hire:

Fortunately for KEE Hire and indeed for our whole industry, the government have deemed heavy equipment rental, machine repair, road construction and maintenance as vital to keep the country going throughout the lock down. Therefore, whilst keeping within the government safety guidelines, we endeavour to keep it 'business as usual' for our KEE Hire customers.

Our aim is to supply and to continue to support our clients and their projects both locally and in regional areas of Western Australia. We are continuing to add to our fleet and have purchased dump trucks, water trucks and additional compaction equipment. As well as increasing our fleet, we have hired extra staff in our hire department and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Hire Administrator Aimee Whitford.



To keep our team safe, we have split our workshop in to working two shifts. This will also ensure rapid turn around for any necessary additional maintenance support.

Mal McDonald, KEE Business Manager

#### KEE Fuel:

While the world focuses on the war against the virus, what would have been the biggest international story in recent times, has been largely ignored. But make no mistake, there is enormous battle currently in process.

Russia and the OPEC member nations have declared war on each other.

The knock-on effect is that we are seeing some of the lowest crude oil prices in the last two decades. This would be excellent news for the average car owner. The sad irony of it is, that while we are in lock down, with travel restricted and people isolating themselves, we cannot take advantage of the cheap fuel. The service stations are selling at incredibly low prices, with most fuels now sitting under \$1.00 per litre. I even saw some service stations selling unleaded fuel below 83.9 cents per litre here in Perth.

With WA having one of the last surviving refineries still producing hydrocarbon products in Australia and the aviation industry brought to it's knees, what will the BP refinery do with all that jet fuel now?

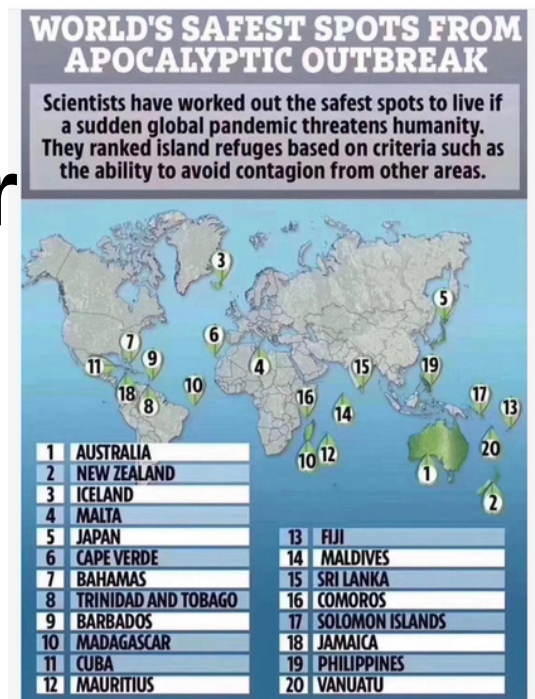
One thing for sure is, with all major oil producing nations' revenues now suffering, there will soon be a major adjustment to production and that means the prices at the pump will be heading upwards once again. When we eventually re-emerge into the new world, what impact these oil prices will have on us all is yet to be seen, I guess we have to just focus on one crisis at a time.

Leigh Hayward, KEE Fuel Manager

## FACTS WORTH READING

# We're number one!

Ozzie's are living in the safest place in the World!



Source: The Risk Analysis Journal



#### KEE Surfacing:

It's been a very productive third quarter for KEE Surfacing. At one stage we had seven of eight crews on nightshift, which is a first for our division. Asphalt teams have been busy on a number of projects across the state; with Smart Freeways, MRIA Murdoch Drive, Manning Road, City of Cambridge and Ocean Reef Road.

But there's one job that really stands out, where we were given the ultimate challenge with millimetre tolerance's and complex grades- Perth International Hockey Stadium at Curtin University. Working with an awesome client, who required a speedy turn-





## INDUSTRY TALK

The resources and energy sector employs about 120,000 workers in Western Australia. Mining and Construction companies are rushing to implement new health and hygiene standards to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 on sites. Companies are looking to minimise the movement of staff and to keep all non-essential staff offsite. New roster changes are being implemented by sites to reduce people movement on and off sites. This will enable production to continue and to ensure workers face minimal risk to exposure.

State and Federal resources ministers have agreed that the resources sector is "essential in maintaining a strong Australian economy". Western Australian miners are continuing with production of minerals and iron ore. There are currently billions of dollars committed to ongoing and future projects in WA and it is expected that these projects will be completed. New projects are committed to come online to fill the void in the future.

Mining construction, road building and general projects are adjusting to meet the crisis in many alternative ways.

A positive outlook across these industries and for Western Australia.

*"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."*

- Viktor Frankl

around, we were very proud to hear positive feedback about the finished product.

One of the international hockey players commented the finish was "As smooth as glass". We love getting such high praise. Thanks to Greg and Anthony for providing KEE Group with the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic project. We welcomed the challenge.

Profiling has been delivering on a number of projects across the state, on ISA, MRIA, and Smart Freeways. We had three crews working at night and two during the day, our 800hp 210xp's state-of-the-art profilers haven't really had a chance to sleep. Since the addition of our W100F machine, we now have the ability to provide a full service solution. Regardless of width or depth, we have the ability to do it all. Above all, our team are proving to be the best of the best.

Spray Seal is now under the guidance of our newly appointed Spray Seal Manager, Amber Wholagan (pictured), who has a wealth of knowledge and experience. The teams have been busy in town providing a top quality product. With our capabilities dramatically increasing with our telescopic sprayers, pre-coaters, and our people.

**Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing Manager**

### **KEE Transport:**

Recently our team has been able to show its ability by completing a massive project covering the entire span of our great country.

KEE Transport mobilised a 58 trailer load, 750 tonne monster Crawler Crane from Tyndale on the far north coast of NSW, to one of the big miners flag ship projects in WA's Pilbara region. This mammoth project was covered from the first truck loading on day one in NSW and the last truck unloading in the Pilbara just ten days later. 100% safely, 100% on-time, equals 100% happy customer!

On a different note, with our industry and the whole country facing this unprecedented, unpredictable future, one thing our clients and staff can be assured of is KEE Transport's unwavering assistance.

**Nathan Terrell, KEE Transport Manager**

# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

NATHAN TERRELL, KEE TRANSPORT MANAGER



## THE TRANSPORTER

"There's no other workplace like this, the guys make it special," said our Transport Manager, Nathan Terrell. Since joining **KEE** Group three years ago, Nathan has had a very positive impact on the company, in fact, the business has almost quadrupled in size since the six-foot-tall, thirty- nine year old stepped into the ring. "I look forward to coming in to work, I want to be here, I want to see it succeed," he said. "I know I could work anywhere else, with half the stress, but what would be the fun in that?!"

From humble beginnings, Nathan has had an extensive career in the industry. "I guess my first insight into the transport world was at the age of 12, doing a paper-round on my bike in Sydney," he said smiling. He started out at an early age, beginning with delivering products, then supervising a dispatch team for a large steel company, Operations Manager for Freo Cranes and then, once he knew the business inside and out, he set up his own business called Access Pilots. His company was a roaring success for many years, but the uncontrollable forces of the GFC hit hard and Nathan's company, like so many, couldn't survive. "People just stopped paying their bills, it was devastating, but there wasn't anything I could do. It was one of those rare times like we are experiencing now, where the whole world just stopped".

Roll on a few years and after successfully managing a transport team and company he was approached by **KEE** Group. "The boys are fantastic," he said, referring to our directors Clayton and Damon, "they're both excellent motivators and make it an exciting place to work." Nathan's phone usually starts to ring around 5am and he'll be in his chair in the office at 5.30am. He is prolific in posting photographs on Linked in. "The men send some cracking photographs from their travels, with their trucks covered in the red dust of the North or carrying enormous machines with sunsets behind them- I'm really proud of them and I want the world to see what they do. My top tip as a manager is to remember we're all as important as one another, there isn't a hierarchy of importance in what we do. I would be stuck without the backup and flexibility of my drivers and equally, they would be stuck without my co-ordinating and communication. We've all got a job to do and every person is equally as critical in getting the job done."

Originally from Central Coast NSW, at the age of 23, Nathan moved to the west for a new life, where he met his wife Anita. "We were both working for a company called Pilkington Glass and she was the hot chick who everyone fancied." He said. It took him six months to pluck up enough courage to ask her out-and thankfully she said yes! "Anita was the person who has influenced me the most in my life, she calmed me down and made me see the world from a different perspective."

Tragically, Nathan's beautiful wife suffered from Lupus, a long-term autoimmune disease. Anita died in 2018 after lung transplant complications. "Anita was a wonderful woman, she made me a better person," he said. "It was a devastating time for me and my kids, but I remember it was the **KEE** family who rallied around me when Anita passed, I was really touched by everyone's support". Nathan lives at home with his partner Roseanna, six teenagers (YES....SIX), three dogs and two cats. "I've loved, I've lost and I've loved again," he said, "I was one of the lucky ones who found a light at the end of the tunnel."

In loving memory of Anita Doreen Marie

Words and pictures by Katharyn Quinn