

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



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"You don't have the right to the cards you believe you should have been dealt. You have an obligation to play the hell out of the ones you are holding." Cheryl Strayed, Author.

I was recently asked what the rest of this year was going to look like for all of us, and quite honestly, given the unpredictability of COVID, it's impossible to call. I do know this, however, we will continue to produce the highest quality asphalt, spray-seal, profiling, and base course. Our transport team is constantly reviewing safety and best practices. Our fuel operators are at 100% productivity and the new additions to our Hire Team have made us WA's best. We can't change the hand we have been given, but we will certainly continue to play the hell out of the one we are holding!

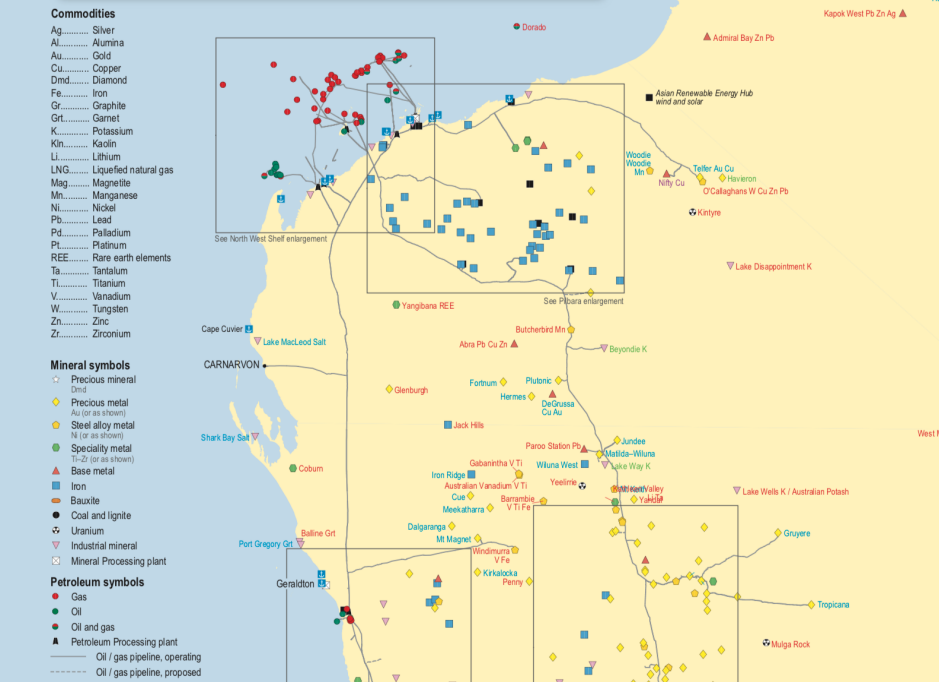
Clayton Spiers, Director

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

With the conclusion of the 20/21 financial year, **KEE Hire** has bolstered our already strong plant list with the addition of 15 new Bell dump trucks and water carts, 6x4 units, a selection of Case, Hitachi, and CAT loaders and excavators, and of course, the new Dynapac rollers, which keep on rollin' in! Our decision to order new equipment mid last year certainly has paid dividends, with our new fleet ready for action for this year's projects. With over 450 machines now servicing the Pilbara and two new depots in the pipeline, we have our clients covered in the Metro, Great Southern and North West regions.

We are also very proud to have two new faces joining our hire team, Sheen Kovacs and Shane Bradley. These two top men



WA is the resources export hub of Australia

The sector produces more than 50 different minerals from approximately 1,000 operating mines in Western Australia.

1. The first metals to be unearthed were gold and copper. Copper finds have dated back to 8,700 BC. Scientists have even located copper pipes that dated back more than five thousand years.

2. Gold is elusive. It's believed that more than 80% of the world's gold is still buried beneath the earth's surface. Time to get that metal detector out!

3. The 'Luck of the Irish' is an old mining term. During the gold and silver rushes in Western America, some of the most famous and successful miners were Irish immigrants, giving rise to the phrase "The Luck of the Irish."

4. The average modern electronic device has more than 35 minerals in it. From your smartphone to your work computer, modern electronics use gold, copper, zinc, and many other minerals to function.

Source; CME Group Inc.

have come on board to assist with our growing division. Please give a warm welcome to them.

Clayton Spiers, Director

KEE Surfacing:

It has been another exciting season for KEE Surfacing. Our teams have been very lucky to be involved with a high-profile project up at Gingin RAAF airbase. Starting with our profiling teams removing the existing taxiways with newly implemented level control (due to the tight tolerances), we then used the precision of our pugmill (which can adjust moisture content by 0.1%). We completed the mission with our newly formed base course laying division completing the taxiways in one layer, which is traditionally performed using graders.

Our inclusion into the MNC works for Downer Mouchel was completed successfully with zero incidents. Our client provided feedback on the performance of the KEE Group team, and was very impressed with all aspects, including safety, leadership, planning, quality and efficiency.

Our teams have been performing a vast amount of widening works throughout various regions of WA. Profiling has been up at Brand Highway and Brookton Highway, taking out 7kms on average for every shift. Spray Seal has been on numerous projects from Port Hedland all the way down to Albany, and our Asphalt team has nearly completed 100kms of shoulder widenings up at Brand Highway.

Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing

KEE Fuel

I had the opportunity recently to spend a month in the truck myself with our trainee fuel driver Kazumi Chaplin. Onsite refuelling is a tougher gig than people may think. Although the 2am starts weren't as bad as first thought, there is something about watching the sun come up over Newest Yanchep a good few hours into a shift that isn't quite right, and dragging a 30m hose full of fuel is heavier than you'd expect, especially after you





Smart Research to Reveal Undiscovered Treasures

INDUSTRY NEWS

Researchers at Curtin University have discovered a faster and smarter way to locate larger mineral deposits beneath the surface of WA. The team has found that by measuring the age of sulfide ore mineral systems accurately, they could predict where other ore deposits may be hidden.

Research leader, Neal McNaughton, said that by knowing which geological events were related to major ore systems, the team would be able to recognise other types of rocks where valuable mineral deposits may still lie undiscovered.

By dating the sulfide minerals, our researchers will provide our state's mineral exploration companies with a new understanding of how WA's mineral systems and deposits developed during our long geological history. The smarter technology takes the guessing out of where the next ore deposits may be hidden. This is very exciting for WA and will be incredibly valuable and beneficial to the resources industry. Source:australiamining.com

**"The positive thinker
sees the invisible,
feels the intangible,
and achieves the
impossible."**

— Winston Churchill

have rolled it out for the 20th time in the morning! However, there are few jobs where you get to watch over an enormous construction site in the dead of silence, just as dawn breaks - it's a surreal experience to have witnessed and enjoyed, even if it was for a short time.

This quarter saw a changing of the guard at **KEE Fuel**. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Craig "Yak" Bell, Brian "Yogi" Richards, and Darryl "Cooch" Hoffrichter for their years of service and dedication. We take our hats off to these gentlemen. As one era ends, we look forward to welcoming the new generation - Sean, Steve, Damien, and Dylan – these young bucks are out and about with a new perspective and energy that is great to see. Welcome to the **KEE Fuel** family guys. We look forward to you all adding to what we are developing.

Leigh Hayward, KEE Fuel Manager

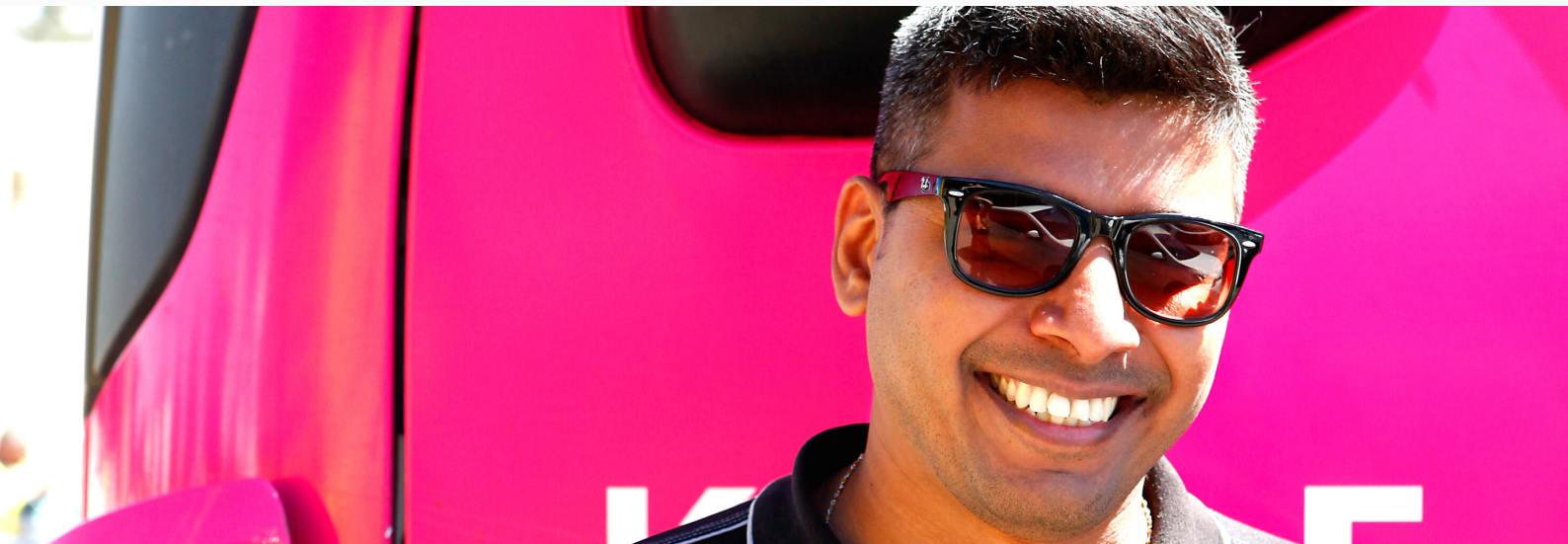
KEE Transport:

What a hectic time it has been since our last report. With the pandemic still lingering, and fires and floods raging around the country, Western Australia's transport industry has pushed on full throttle, and it does not seem to be slowing down any time soon. We are moving record amounts of machinery across the state at present. The **KEE Team** is certainly earning their keep. With this unprecedented level of demand for our services and the current skills shortage faced by all industries, including the transport sector, we feel extremely proud to have not been impacted by this. Thank you to our hardworking, loyal operators who have stuck with the team and continue to go at maximum capacity.

Nathan Terrell, KEE Transport Manager

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

KUNAL CHHAPIA, KEE FUEL LIQUID LOGISTICS MANAGER



OUR CLEVER CHHAP

It is perhaps quite fitting that our fuel scheduler Kunal Chhapiya was born in the city that holds THE largest oil refinery on Earth. The vast Indian city of Jamnagar is actually known as the de facto petroleum hub of the world. Kunal 'three degrees' Chhapiya (as we like to call him!) is a rather studious man. After interviewing him, it is clear that his passion in life is learning, to gain as much knowledge and information as he can get his hands on. It was his inspirational 7th-grade teacher Mr. Tarak who changed his approach to education.

Kunal left his hometown at 16 to go to study in Pune (known as 'the Oxford of the East') and then Bombay where he studied Biotechnology. As part of his internship, Kunal had to analyse DNA samples from crime scenes for forensics. He then gained another degree, this time in Marketing and Finance. He was selected to go to East Africa to work on a project, where he promoted agricultural products for the Export Trading Company (ETG). "It was an exciting place to live," he said, "but we had to keep our wits about us, as we were in a high-risk area." One time, when his parents visited him, his mother was actually held up in his kitchen by a man holding a gun to her head! "My mother was lucky and managed to get away without being harmed," he said.

He was inspired to move to Perth because of Curtin University and also his brother-in-law Kush Doshi (who was working for Boral WA at the time). With his credentials, he studied for a Masters in Commerce Logistics and Supply Chain Management. His rather clever wife, Neha, has two degrees and they are both currently studying for a further one, in Data Science.

"I thank my father for all his teachings and life learnings," he said. "For almost every decision I make, I ask myself, what would my dad do if he were in my shoes? I try to be like him, he was a remarkable man," he smiles. "And for my mother, I thank her for all the opportunities." It was Kunal's mother who pushed him to explore the world. "I was a shy child, and it was my mother who made me face the world and told me that there is no better teacher than the experiences life will give you."

It is here where we must mention the tragic circumstances of how Kunal very recently lost both his parents. Two years ago, after a long battle with cancer, he lost his beloved mother. Then, last October, within only a short time of being admitted to hospital, his father tragically died from COVID-19. Kunal was incredibly close to both his parents, and he and his brother have since also lost two of their uncles to this terrible virus. It has been an absolutely harrowing time for the 34-year-old, made worse by the fact that he could not attend his father's funeral due to the current restrictions. Yet with all this on his shoulders, our man still keeps working and still keeps his happy-go-lucky persona.

Kunal became part of the **KEE** family in 2017 when the fuel side of the company was just starting out and was averaging 50,000 litres of fuel a month. Roll on another four years and Kunal and **KEE** Fuel Manager Leigh Hayward have now grown the business to 1.4 million litres! "Leigh has been my mentor," he said, "He throws me in at the deep-end sometimes to push my decision-making- and it works! And I've learned in building a company you must have patience. As Walter Elliot said 'Perseverance is not a long race. It is many short races, one after the other'. This is so very true."

Words and pictures by Katharyn Quinn