

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



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Challenging times sort the wheat from the chaff. I'm pleased to report that **KEE** Group is growing, with more locations, more top-of-the-line equipment and more dedicated and knowledgeable staff whose most important job is to support and assist our customers.

2022 began with high hopes that the challenges of the past two years of COVID-19 might end. The end hasn't yet come, particularly for WA, but **KEE** Group continues to focus on ensuring that our staff and our customers are safe and available to service your requirements. Difficult times produce opportunities for the people willing to take them on. That's our focus here at **KEE**.

David Cox, General Manager

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

It has been a busy and exciting start to 2022 with the continued growth in contracted works commencing throughout the whole of our state. As we continue to anticipate our clients' needs and spot the deficiencies in the market, we have been ordering new gear to be delivered over the next few months.

Due to popular demand, we had two of our low-houred B40 Dump Trucks converted into Watercarts by our very good friends over at Shermac. Of course, these went straight out on hire after the conversion.

Rollers are still in high demand in the Metro area with Oscillating Rollers required on all major projects, while Padfoot Rollers, Watercarts, Dump Trucks and Graders are proving to be the flavour of the month in the Pilbara.

Natalie Martin, KEE On-Hire Manager



KEE HERO SAVES WOMANS LIFE

Our very own Dylan Garratt saved a woman's life this month. The 39-year-old truck operator was en route to deliver a machine in the North West when he noticed a car over-take him. Further on, he noticed a huge dust cloud up ahead. A car had flipped onto its roof and crashed down far off the road and into the bush. It was the same woman who had overtaken him. Dylan acted quickly. He pulled his truck over and ran over to pull the woman free from the car. Unbelievably, the woman was conscious. He rang for an ambulance and waited with her for over an hour until they arrived. If he hadn't spotted her, there would've been a very different outcome. But that's not where the story ends. Dylan's good deed had a twist. After driving on to Mount Magnet, he woke the following morning and went to the roadhouse to get breakfast. Who should be there to serve him? The woman who he had saved the previous day. Needless to say, our hero's breakfast was on the house! Well done Dylan!

Pictured below: Anita King, who has dedicated ten years to KEE



KEE Surfacing:

MNC project has kicked off the season showcasing our profiling, spray and asphalt laying capabilities. Starting on a difficult location on Charles Street, **KEE** laid a relatively new mix for WA 14mm Gap graded asphalt with crumbed rubber. This was a first for our crews.

By utilising a second profiler on the Reid Highway, we have been able to produce high-productivity shifts in the small working window for our client, which in turn has reduced the time and the impact on road users.

KEE Surfacing is currently working with Highways Construction to upgrade the Morley Drive & Wanneroo Road Intersection, providing profiling, spray seal and asphalt services. The asphalt and profiling teams have also been busy carrying out Local Government works with our new client City of Canning on their resurfacing program.

Our Spray Seal team has been very busy, travelling all over the Southwest and Wheatbelt areas, completing works for Bill Gibbs Excavations, Service Stream, Fulton Hogan and Stabilised Pavements Australia. We provided spray seal treatment to shoulder widenings, stabilised patching and full road reconstructions on the Albany Denmark Road.

KEE Profiling continues with their great work at the City of Bayswater carrying out works for their resurfacing program. Our pugmill operations on the Pearce Airbase have commenced, with other regional works on the horizon.

Lastly, a huge congratulations to our **KEE** Surfacing Administrator, Anita King, who has been with the company for ten years. Anita has been a key member from the start. Thank you for your loyalty, endless support and office banter!

Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing Mgr

KEE Fuel:

The thought on everyone's mind when it comes to fuel is Price. That's right \$2 fuel. I'm not sure if this will be the new normal going forwards, but all signs are that it will



L-R Transport Manager Brendan Byrne and Project Engineer Josh Camp

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

During a friendly chin-wag at KEE's latest Christmas party, KEE newbies Brendan Byrne and Josh Camp stumbled across a funny discovery.

Josh mentioned he lived in Lesmurdie. Brendan said he knew the area very well. In fact, it turned out that Brendan knew Josh's HOUSE very well- it was the same one Brendan had grown up in nearly 40 years ago!

"It was so funny!" said Josh, who had moved in only last year. "What are the chances of that?"

The 1970's brick house had been a family home for Brendan and his siblings for eight years and he went to the local school, where Josh's four kids currently attend.

"I can imagine the decor has changed a fair bit since we lived there in the 80s," said Brendan, "but we had some great times at that house and I have many fond memories of living there."

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

– Theodore Roosevelt

be the case for some time. Let's hope I'm proven wrong! Here are a few simple things you can do right now to get that little bit further on a tank of petrol:

- Take the items out of your vehicle that you don't need – less weight = less fuel usage.
- You are not Lewis Hamilton – no need to go from 0-100 in 2.3 seconds from the lights!
- Keep your windows closed to help reduce drag. You will use less fuel with your air-con on (even though our frugal mothers always told us differently).
- Learn where and when to best use your cruise control – it's not always the most efficient way to drive.

The Fuel Team has been working all hours, including during the hottest parts of the day. With Perth already breaking the city's record for the most days at 40C or over, I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone for working throughout this sweltering summer.

Leigh Hayward, KEE Fuel Manager

KEE Transport:

Over the past few months, we have seen multiple challenges regarding accreditation and auditing for our operators and trucks, but through sheer commitment and teamwork, we have succeeded in passing all four. This has now given us the opportunity to project our focus and goals toward customer service and efficiencies.

We have been busy servicing and maintaining our fleet, making sure each 'mean machine' is ready for action. They are the tools of our trade after all!

I was proud to see the ten-year milestone reached for Rod MacGregor. We have another ten years of service coming up soon, so watch this space! It really does say a lot about a company to reach these milestones, and it's one of the reasons I am proud to be a part of team KEE.

Brendan Byrne, KEE Transport Mgr

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

KARTHICK BANALA & SWETHA CHANDRASHEKAR



OUR KEE COUPLE

"He is one of the most dedicated, committed and brilliant people we have working at **KEE**," said General Manager David Cox of our Project Accountant Karthick Banala. "He is both highly respectful and highly respected."

Karthick, who has been with **KEE** for three years, said he owes his work ethic to his father. "He is a workaholic and works 12 to 16 hours a day. He is always kind to everyone and a very down-to-earth person. He taught me how to work efficiently and how to respect our superiors, colleagues and any person we meet in our life. Most importantly he taught me how to be loyal to the company we work for. In his 50-year career he has worked exclusively for just two companies." Karthick also dedicates his success to his mother. "Mum supported me with all her numerous fastings and prayers visiting various temples all over India which has also helped me to be in the position where I am."

Karthick is **KEE's** Project Administrator Swetha Chandrashekar's inspiration in life. Karthick also happens to be Swetha's husband! "Karthick has taught me a lot in my life. He helped me to approach life differently, he has shown me how it is important to set a goal and to try to achieve it." Karthick has BCom, MBA, MFM & CA Inter under his belt and Swetha has BCom, with a passion to one day have her own fashion label. The academic couple, who wed on Valentine's Day nine years ago, has been working as our dynamic accounting duo for **KEE** Group's surfacing division.

Both are from South India. Karthick was born in the town of Madurai, which is famous for its 1,500-year-old historic temples, and Swetha is from Hindupur (530kms north of Madurai), famous for the miraculous hanging pillars and the growing Nandhi idol at Lepakshi Temple.

Karthick's older brother works as a CFO for an aviation company in WA and he was the person who encouraged him to make the big leap over to Perth. "There was a lot of demand and good opportunities for accounting professionals back in 2009. When I came over, I felt like I had travelled to heaven!" the 40-year-old recalled. "I mean, there is absolutely no pollution, no traffic and there are hardly any people walking in the streets after 5pm. It was completely new to me." Unbelievably, Swetha's first impression of WA was that it was freezing! Coming from India, the 33-year-old was not used to the very cold temperatures of May. "At first, I was homesick, but Perth is a very beautiful place and now I don't want to leave."

Karthick and Swetha have a six-year-old son called Sathvik who loves to play Nintendo Switch. "He gets excited whenever he sees a cop or a police car," said Karthick. "We think he would like to become a police officer when he grows up."

Words and pictures by Katharyn Quinn