

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW INITIATIVE

KGNC NEWS

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

The first months of 2023 have been very busy for all of us at **KEE**. Our Surfacing team has started a huge project on the Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) where we are building the basecourse for a new 27km road that will link Forrest Highway in the north-east to Bussell Highway in the south-west, passing via South-Western Highway (pictured).

We have also been awarded the contract for the supply and installation of asphalt for MELconnx Alliance, delivering the METRONET Morley-Ellenbrook Line. This long-awaited project will link the fast-growing north-eastern suburbs directly with the wider Perth passenger rail network, with expected completion by the end of 2024.

With these and other major infrastructure projects already secured, our teams will be busy for years to come!

We are also proud to announce an eye-catching new initiative created within our Hire division to help raise funds for important health charities and organisations. Read on to find out more!

David Cox, Chief Executive Officer

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

The year started with a bang with Perth and Port Hedland both having full order books when the teams returned from the break. The dedication of all branch and workshop staff to get these machines ready for our clients' requirements was second to none and they were all delivered as required.

We had three separate clients in the Pilbara who all needed equipment urgently to fix the roads in the wake of ex-tropical



cyclone Ellie which caused the Kimberley Floods (pictured left). An estimated 100 homes were left uninhabitable after the flooding and so it became imperative the road infrastructure be restored quickly to help those communities.

The **KEE** team swung immediately into action, sending urgent equipment to the region and, with the help of Dale Smulders from Hitachi, we were able to settle and collect one of our new Bell B45E Dump Trucks within 24 hours and **KEE** Transport soon had this on the road.

Natalie Martin, KEE On-Hire Manager

KEE Surfacing:

Hold the front page! Our **K Team** asphalt plant has finally been released and is ready to be deployed. **KEE** Surfacing is proud to announce that the division will be stepping into a new arena and has acquired two mobile asphalt plants to expand its capabilities in the road surfacing business.

Anthony Serpo has joined **KEE** as Production Manager and he will be driving this new division. With over twenty years of experience in the industry, we know the **K Team** will be in safe hands.

The first of our mobile plants ready for action is a Lintec CDP5001M. This one-trailer unit has the capability to produce up to 50 tonnes per hour. The bonus with this unit is that the entire asphalt plant can be set up and operational within hours.

KEE Basecourse recently completed two successful basecourse trials using a paver instead of a grader. The new process uses a pugmill machine to mix granite or basalt with water, which is then fed into a paving machine. South West Gateway Alliance has given **KEE** an opportunity for this process to be trialled on BORR, the biggest transport infrastructure project ever to be undertaken in the South West. This \$852 million project involves the construction of a 27km four-lane, high-standard road stretching from Forrest Highway near Australind to Bussell Highway, south of Bunbury.

Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing Mgr

KEE'S Charitable Initiative

KEE Hire is proud to announce a new eye-catching initiative to help raise funds for charities.

KEE welcomes two brand-new Hitachi B30E water carts with a difference -- one has been painted a bright, bold blue and the other a striking pastel pink. So, what's the significance of these colourful beauties? The water carts will now be representing several different charities, chosen by our staff and customers, meaning the more they are hired, the more cash KEE can raise for important causes.

It's simple; Hire Mr Blue and KEE will donate a percentage of the revenue from these trucks to organisations that support men's health. Hire Miss Pink (pictured below) and KEE will donate to women's charities.

Many thanks to the team at Barton ADT Engineering for fulfilling our unusual brief and to Hitachi for yet again supplying bespoke technologically advanced super articulated trucks! Let's get hiring!





NEW CAPTAIN AT THE HELM

We are delighted to announce that Mario Bertone (pictured left) has been appointed new Branch Manager at KGNC. Mario, who has Sicilian heritage, has lived in Port Hedland for twenty years and has over a decade of experience working in the industry.

"KEE Group is like a big family and my wife Jane and the kids are excited with this fresh start. I am looking forward to taking the helm, assisting our clients and growing the business alongside our new crew," he said. Mario will be working with Workshop Maintenance Manager Dean McWilliam (pictured right) and Branch Administrator Stephanie Andre (middle).

Todd Fuller has stepped down and relocated back to Perth. We thank Todd for helping us get KGNC to where it is today and wish him and his family all the best in their new venture.

"Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory."
— Mahatma Gandhi

KEE Fuel:

KEE Fuel has just taken delivery of another new truck and tanker that will help to service the supply of fuel to every major infrastructure project in Perth and beyond. It is currently getting painted the traditional KEE Fuel pink and will be out on the road in the next few weeks.

Our customers are continually asking "when will fuel costs come down?". If only we had a crystal ball! Australian fuel prices follow world prices and these have increased as a result of global economic conditions, Russia's war in Ukraine, and the Australian dollar exchange rate.

Russia is one of the world's largest oil suppliers, and global oil supply chains have been heavily disrupted as a result of the war. Australia's reliance on fuel imports means it's vulnerable to volatile international fuel markets. But, believe it or not, Australia has among the lowest petrol and diesel prices of all 38 OECD countries. and is ranked sixth cheapest.

David Cox, Chief Executive Officer

KEE Transport:

KEE Transport has had a transition period over the last six months, with changes in personnel within the office and driver group. With fresh new faces, we are focusing on improving systems, safety, customer services and building on existing business. Sara Larrazabal has taken on the local scheduling role and Aimee Whitford has returned to the team after six months of maternity leave.

There will be some new drivers starting in the coming month. We have a very specialised work environment for the driver group, especially with some of the Perth metro requirements, where drivers' knowledge needs to be of a very high standard. Thanks to our driver supervisor Rod, we have been able to upskill and train new employees in operating equipment for safe loading and unloading along Perth metro routes for site access.

Hale Preston-Samson, KEE Transport Mgr

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

RACHEL BEERS, KEE HIRE CO-ORDINATOR



A NEED FOR SPEED!

"My top tip on life is to do at least one thing that is solely for yourself and that it is your passion," says our Hire Co-ordinator Rachel Beers, and it's exactly the motto she lives by.

Rachel (or 'Beersy' as she is affectionately known) has a passion for speed and so, at the age of 43, she decided to take up motor racing, where she reaches top speeds of 230kmph.

"I have always been interested in speed and have owned numerous motorbikes and high-powered cars over the years," Rachel says. "My partner Wayne competes in racing and after a while, I got fed up with being pit crew and decided to give it a go!"

At the time, Wayne was building a new race car for himself. It was 2015 and people had started racing Hyundai Excels (a 1.5-litre engine 81 hp 60 kw car) so he suggested she start with a small-engined Excel.

"This suggestion was shot down in flames," she laughs. "I asked him, 'What do I drive on the road?' and he answered 'a 6ltr V8'. My response was, 'Then that is what I am driving on the track'.

Three months later, two V8 VE Commodore sister cars were built.

For someone who is relatively new to racing, Rachel has done incredibly well. In 2021 our KEE adrenaline junky came an impressive second in the WA State Championship, second in the WASCC Championship, and second in the Improved Production Association of WA Championship. Not bad for someone who took the sport up only eight years ago.

When asked what makes her want to compete, Rachel explains: "When I put my helmet on, I have total tunnel vision. I am in my zone. The adrenaline kicks in and all other thoughts disappear – nothing else matters. I love the speed and intensity; the thrill of the race is addictive."

Rachel's most memorable race was last June at the Supercars weekend in Darwin. "We had been going there for years. but this was the first time I actually raced rather than being part of the pit crew," she said. "I competed in three races with a field of 38 competitors. There was a huge crowd and an amazing atmosphere and I finished 8th in my class and 11th outright."

Rachel's love of her extreme sport might also have something to do with her upbringing. Being the youngest, with two older brothers, Rachel's recollection of growing up was 'being one of the boys'. "My childhood was spent climbing trees, falling off of skateboards, making mudslides by the creek and messing about on motorbikes."

Aside from her need for speed, Rachel had an academic brain and her favourite subject at school was mathematics. Fast forward a few years and in 2006 her career path drew her to the waste and recycling industry. Rachel loved the intensity of the logistics side where she was responsible for managing the drivers and the trucks.

Rachel has been with **KEE** for just over a year now and has been a lifesaver for our hire team. "What I love about the hire game is that no two days are the same," she says, "and whatever the day brings, we always have fun and enjoy a laugh!"

KEE Group is proud to sponsor 'Beersy' and if you would like to show your support, she will be seen whizzing around the tracks at Wanneroo Raceway next month, on Sunday 16th April.

Words by Katharyn Quinn