

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



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WA BONUS

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The first quarter of 2024 calendar year has been massive for us all at **KEE**. We have just signed two contracts in our surfacing business – two of the largest projects we have ever won. Both start in the next few months and the team are working hard to set them up and be ready for when our customers need us. Watch out for the next **KEE** Board with some details and photos!

The weather in the Northern Territory has created some challenges for us so far this year with unprecedented rainfall making it hard to get equipment to our projects. January saw 788mm of rain, February saw 414mm and the first half of March has shown 274mm. That is almost a meter and a half of rainfall in just 75 days – wow!

To you all, thank you for your custom and please reach out if we can assist with your next project, come rain or shine we're happy to help!

David Cox, CEO

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

It certainly has been a hot start to the year – in more ways than one. This quarter, **KEE** has a presence on all major projects across WA, so our workshop teams in Perth and Port Hedland have certainly been kept busy. With a new year comes increased workload on our teams as projects fire back up following well-deserved breaks over the Christmas period, and our teams have responded incredibly, offering fast turnaround and support for equipment.

Our Maintenance Manager, Mitch White, paid a visit to our



WA TO RECEIVE BONUS

Despite Western Australia's historical grievances with the GST distribution system, a recent turn of events has highlighted a positive shift for the state.

WA is set to receive an additional \$6.2 billion in GST under a Turnbull-era agreement supported by Labor. To ensure fairness, \$5.2 billion will be distributed to other states. The Commonwealth Grants Commission's recommendations drive these payments, with some states, like Victoria, seeing significant revenue boosts.

This unexpected outcome underscores the potential for fairer treatment of WA within the GST framework.

Moreover, WA's commitment to resource extraction, despite facing challenges, remains a cornerstone of its economy. The state's proactive approach to mining and resource development has bolstered its economic resilience, despite fluctuations in global markets. WA's strategic initiatives, including investments in infrastructure and innovation, position it as a vital contributor to Australia's economic landscape.

Sources: The Guardian, The West Australian

Pictured below, Josh Durrant (left) with Mitchell White



clients in Darwin in January to inspect the ten dump trucks (pictured left), two articulated water carts, and loader currently working in the Territory.

In February, our Welshpool fitter, Josh Durrant, completed his four-year apprenticeship and is now a fully qualified HD Fitter. Josh is a valued member of our team, and it has been a pleasure watching him learn and grow over the past four years. Josh has now transitioned into a Field Service position and is heading to our Port Hedland depot to assist the **KGNC**. Great work!
Natalie Martin, KEE On-Hire Manager

KEE Surfacing:

This quarter marked the commencement of the yearly Main Roads WA resurfacing works that we undertake. This marks our third year of being on the panel and performing these works, but it is the first year working directly for Main Roads. This change came about after the Government opted to bring their works in-house and directly oversee the road network rather than outsourcing to contractors.

Due to external factors, these works started later in the year than usual. Our client (Main Roads) asked us to explore the possibility of increasing productivity, with the aim of completing more works in less time.

In response, our Project Manager Malcolm Dignon and Supervisor Reggie Bidois devised an ingenious solution that met Main Roads' expectations without compromising safety or cutting corners.

The solution? Make the paver bigger!

By increasing the size, we could conduct two runs in one go, allowing for more maintenance area to be covered with less impact on the community. Every night, we had to float our paver onto the freeway. There, three technicians installed extension boxes to the existing paver, increasing the paving width to 7.2 meters.

This initiative exemplifies the innovative spirit of our **KEE** team of thinking outside of the box, pushing boundaries and surpassing expectations to deliver exceptional results.

Bumpy Samuel, KEE Surfacing Manager



INDUSTRY NEWS

A \$100 million Swan River pedestrian bridge in Perth will feature dynamic digital artwork projected onto its cabling, creating a unique visual experience. Set to connect Victoria Park to the CBD, the project aims to be completed by year-end. WA Premier Roger Cook anticipates it becoming a major attraction, serving as a digital canvas for various messages and images. Despite cost overruns blamed on steel and manufacturing, Transport Minister Rita Saffioti highlights the bridge's innovative lighting displays, promising no political or commercial content.

Nearly a year's worth of rain fell on parts of south-east WA in just 24 hours. WA faces more severe flooding, impacting vital transportation routes. The Trans-Australian Railway, crucial for freight between WA and South Australia, was closed due to inundation. Similarly, the Eyre Highway, linking WA and SA, shut down intermittently due to flooding. Residents in Goldfields-Midlands and Midwest-Gascoyne regions are advised to prepare for severe weather. Fitzroy Crossing, Noonkanbah, and Mount Barnett residents are urged to take emergency measures as minor flooding is anticipated. The situation may persist, disrupting travel and prompting safety precautions.

sources; WA today, The Canberra Times

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

KEE Fuel:

With the year well and truly kicked off, major projects in Perth have ramped up, which means more fuel is needed to support them. Our fuel drivers and pink trucks have been all over Perth, from Mandurah to Yanchep, and even out to Gidgegannup, to ensure there is no delay or disruption to their projects or businesses.

With an increasing amount of equipment requiring AdBlue, **KEE Fuel** has recently struck up a partnership to be able to provide pre-packaged AdBlue solutions. Reach out to the **KEE Fuel** team for further information on how we can further support your onsite requirements.

You may have noticed over the past year a white fuel truck has been servicing your site? We recently gave it a makeover for its first birthday, so keep an eye out for our newly painted pink truck!

Michael Thornton, KEE Fuel Manager

KEE Transport:

The transport team has had a busy time assisting in the start up of panel movements locally for ALUA and WA specialised, with training on equipment required, setup for specialised movements and assisting with customer requirements and changing scope.

The northwest has seen a number of projects from Fitzroy Crossing, Broome, Onslow and Mt Weld. With weather events running all across the northwest over the last couple of months, increased communication has been needed to plan timelines and prioritise equipment mobilisation to meet deadlines.

The team have been managing the changing timelines with customers after review of road closures due to flooding.

Despite these challenges, our transport team has shown resilience and adaptability, and as professionals, they have the expertise to analyse complex jobs and devise effective solutions. Great work team!

Hale Preston-Samson, KEE Transport Mgr

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

ANTHONY SERPO; PRODUCTION MANAGER



THE K-TEAM'S SECRET INGREDIENT

"Anthony is a driven leader," said Surfacing Manager Bumpy Samuel. "He motivates everyone to do their best, which makes our team stronger. He is a significant contributor to the asphalt production team's achievements."

With a practical mindset, a heap of common sense, and a hands-on approach, our Production Manager Anthony Serpo just gets things done. "Whether he's cracking on with the job or leading the charge, he's got a knack for it. He is a true legend!"

As a seasoned surface professional with a career spanning over two decades, Anthony has been spearheading **THE K-TEAM**, our crewed mobile asphalt units.

Hailing from the vibrant landscapes of Adelaide, Anthony's career is as rich and diverse as the bold Shiraz from his beloved Barossa Valley. As a teenager, Anthony's slight 'lack of enthusiasm' for traditional schooling led him to an apprenticeship in the culinary world, training as a chef in Darwin. His parents worked in the hospitality industry, so it was a natural fit.

However, fate intervened when he stumbled upon an opportunity in the asphalt industry, kickstarting a new career. In 1995, Anthony was looking for a job and walked into Pioneer Road Services yard in Adelaide (now FH). "I said I wanted a job and I said I would do anything!" he said. "They gave me a shot working on the Spray Seal crew, and the rest, as they say, is history."

The asphalt industry took him far and wide, working on major projects interstate for many years, but with a wife and growing family, being away so much meant he missed out on important events in his family's life. "It was this that changed my thought and direction," he said. "When I was offered a role in Perth that would allow me the ability to not only expand my skills but also create a better family/work balanced life, I jumped at the chance."

After working for various multinational companies whose main objectives were always driven by profit and not its people, Anthony was particularly impressed by the family-centric mindset of **KEE** Group.

"The value it holds for the people who drive this business, by rewarding, acknowledging, and investing in those people, I believe that it shows a level of understanding many corporate companies have long since forgotten. It is the people that make you successful; they are your brand and your legacy," he said.

Born in 1975, he grew up mostly in the 80s. His family is Italian, so most of their social circles and activities were revolved around that. "The main thing that we always did as a family was to go water skiing on the Murray River; this was by far my favourite thing to do and the place where I was happiest growing up. To this day, it is still my happy place."

Leading **KEE's** mobile asphalt plants, Anthony thrives on the challenges of project management, overseeing the production of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of asphalt with a keen eye for efficiency and quality. Maybe his experience as a chef is the secret ingredient behind his flawless mix?!

"My top tip for working in this industry is to watch, listen, learn, and ask as many questions as you can. There is no such thing as a silly question."

Anthony lives with his wife Leigh and two daughters, Natalia, 19, and Paige, 16. "The decision to move to Perth was harder for my girls. However, if you ask them now six years later where they would want to live, there is no hesitation in their response. 'The West is the Best!'"

Words by Katharyn Quinn