

THE KEE BOARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KEE GROUP



Photo by Darren Phillips, Production Manager

NEWS IN BRIEF

INDUSTRY NEWS

FIRST SIGNS OF TRANSPORT

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

KEE Group is committed to expanding its business, both through the introduction of innovative new products and services, and by exploring new geographic locations. By maintaining a forward-thinking approach, we are always on the lookout for opportunities to diversify our product portfolio. This involves identifying emerging trends and customer needs, which allows us to create solutions that not only meet but exceed market expectations. Our dedication to innovation ensures that we remain competitive and relevant in an ever-evolving industry.

In addition to expanding our product offerings, **KEE** Group is focused on broadening our reach by entering new markets. We have been strategically exploring regions that present growth potential, ensuring that our products and services can cater to a wider audience. This geographical expansion is driven by thorough research and an understanding of local markets, enabling us to establish a strong presence in new areas. Several K-Team members recently travelled across Australia to explore new ways to enhance value for our customers. We see opportunities for **KEE's** services to bring real value to other states while maintaining the exceptional service we provide in WA. Watch this space for further details...

David Cox, CEO

NEWS IN BRIEF

KEE Hire:

KEE Hire is currently in the process of looking into [recruitment](#)



Photo by Darren Phillips, KEE Surfacing

INDUSTRY NEWS

First train for Perth's new metro line

The 17.5km METRONET Thornlie-Cockburn Link has welcomed its first test train, marking the start of testing and commissioning. As Perth's first east-west rail link, it features new Nicholson Road and Ranford Road stations, upgrading Thornlie and Cockburn Central stations. The project connects the Mandurah and Armadale lines, improving access to jobs and housing.

Opening in mid-2025, it will offer affordable transport and direct trips to Perth Stadium. Meanwhile, the elevated Armadale Line progresses, delivering seven new stations and a 7km 'Long Park' with playgrounds, sports courts, and green spaces, enhancing connectivity and livability in Perth's south-eastern suburbs.

Photo of the storms in Onslow, by James "Coady" Coad, KEE Estimator



additions and updates to our fleet to again provide solutions that are required by our clients.

In Perth, there are several projects due to commence, such as Eastlink WA, Tonkin Hwy extension and Thomas Road upgrade. In the Pilbara we have new projects starting up, including Western Ranges, the new Urea Plant in Karratha, Defence Force Base works as well as Lumsden Point. Recently, Cyclone Zelia posed a significant threat to our yard in Port Hedland. Our Workshop Supervisor Adam Pearson was interviewed by ABC radio about his experience of the storm. Although the yard took a battering with 120kms winds, luckily the category 5 cyclone missed the area by 65kms. Look out for the next edition of the **KEE** Board where we will be introducing our new KGNC team.

Natalie Martin, On Hire Manager

KEE Surfacing:

At the start of 2025, we've hit the ground running with our teams working across the Pilbara, the MRWA maintenance program's night shift work, and our ongoing local projects. Additionally, we're excited to have two crews working on our mobiles in the Pilbara, where we will be using our spray seal, asphaltting and manufacturing divisions.

KEE Manufacturing has operated mobile asphalt plants in the Pilbara since their acquisition. For the past seven months, we've been collaborating with a valued client in Onslow, and recent contract variations will expand our role in the project. Our team is now tasked with manufacturing and laying asphalt over a significant portion of a new haul road, and they are working diligently to deliver high-quality results.

We are happy to congratulate Rait Sagor on his well-earned promotion at **KEE**. Rait first joined us working on the shovel and rake for the crews, then on to a paver operator, working his way up to Project



WORLD'S FIRST VEHICLE?

A remarkable discovery at White Sands National Park, New Mexico, reveals that prehistoric humans were hauling heavy loads dating as far back as 22,000 years ago. Scientists uncovered drag marks alongside ancient footprints, providing the earliest evidence of primitive transport methods in North America—long before the invention of the wheel.

The transport tracks highlight the long history of moving heavy loads—something Australia's trucking industry knows well. Much like today's road trains hauling freight across the Outback, these ancient tracks show the ingenuity of people finding ways to move essential cargo. From wooden sleds to high-powered rigs, transport has always been vital to survival and progress, proving that the need for efficient freight movement is as old as humanity itself.

Source: New Scientist

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

— Mahatma Gandhi

Manager, and he has now been appointed as our new Operations Manager. Well done Rait on this well-deserved achievement. We also extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the **KEE Surfacing** family. Please join us in welcoming Nicola Kean (Surfacing Administrator), and Erin McIntosh (Laboratory).

Anthony Serpo, KEE Growth & Strategy Manager

KEE Logistics:

KEE Transport has continued to service the Northern part of Australia dodging the rain events throughout Western Australia, Northern Territory and Far North Queensland. This is a section of Australia that requires specialised assets operated by experienced operators. At **KEE Transport** we have both of those capabilities, and we thank all our professional drivers that bring a can-do positive attitude every day to work. Throughout February 2025, the transport business mobilised a full fleet of mobile assets into the Pilbara. With machines ranging from 35t – 92t. I am happy to say this was completed on time, on budget and without incident. This once again highlights **KEE's** flexible, solutions-driven approach to projects, providing clients with a single point of contact and a streamlined, reliable service.

Meanwhile, our Transport division has expanded its WA Metro fleet with the addition of a brand-new Volvo FM 8x4 Tilt Tray. This upgrade increases our carrying capacity from 9 tonnes to 13.55 tonnes, enhancing both productivity and fleet utilisation.

KEE Fuel is providing on-site fuel to Raubex in Bannister and Red Hill on a staged ramp up. We have successfully integrated new telematics across our fleet, delivering real-time data to enhance productivity, monitor driver fatigue, provide client notifications, and support incident management with video footage when required.

Brett Thiele, GM KEE Logistics

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

DARREN PHILLIPS; SURFACING PRODUCTION MANAGER



YOUNG, MOTIVATED AND DRIVEN

“Darren is a highly motivated individual who always strives to do his best while inspiring those around him to do the same,” says our Growth and Strategy Manager, Anthony Serpo. “He is methodical, practical, and a strong leader who shares his knowledge with the team,” he adds, speaking about our new Production Manager, 28 year old Darren Phillips. “He is always willing to get his hands dirty and get the job done, no matter what it takes.”

Hailing from the historic town of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, England, Darren Phillips grew up surrounded by both rich history and a bustling family life. As one of nine siblings, it’s fair to say he has mastered the art of adaptability, patience, and diplomacy growing up! His family has strong ties to the industry, with his father and younger brother both working in construction, while his younger sister has recently embarked on her own path, studying Civil Construction Management at University.

Darren moved to Western Australia in 2009, following his family in search of “blue skies and sunshine.” Drawn to hands-on work, he explored various trades, including woodwork, metalwork, and electrical engineering. A natural problem-solver, he initially pursued an apprenticeship in cabinet making before an unexpected turn led him into the asphalt industry. Starting at Boral, he soon became deeply involved in asphalt production, spray seal operations, and even float driving, transporting heavy machinery between sites. His journey took him from Boral to Downer and, ultimately, to **KEE** Group—where his positive attitude and team-player mentality have been welcomed.

“Darren’s commitment to **KEE** is unwavering,” says our CEO, David Cox. “He is truly passionate about his work, and his dedication is evident not only in his contributions on-site but also in the great project photos and drone-film footage he shares on LinkedIn.” Before joining **KEE** Group, Darren was already familiar with the company, having supplied them with asphalt mix since 2017.

“I’ve always been impressed with how driven everyone at **KEE** is—not just to get the job done, but to get it done right, efficiently, and profitably,” says Darren. “I always felt frustrated when I worked for larger companies, as it seemed like they were on cruise control. Big companies just expected work to land on their doorstep, and they didn’t really feel the need to innovate or invest—at least not in WA.”

Darren’s role involves overseeing the logistics of personnel and material movements, ensuring all equipment is well-maintained, and providing support across **KEE**’s Surfacing division. His position demands quick thinking, strong leadership, and a deep understanding of both the technical and operational aspects of asphalt production. “Every day is an enjoyable day. The guys at **KEE** are always appreciative when you help them, and they’re just as willing to lend a hand when you need it. We’ve got each other’s backs.”

He recalls a wise supervisor once telling him, “When things get tense on the job, make sure you leave it on-site. Don’t let it affect your willingness to have a beer with that same person after work.” In an industry that demands both precision and teamwork, this philosophy has served him well.

Outside of work, Darren enjoys life in Perth with his partner, Tatum, their nine-year-old daughter, Lily, and their cat, Felix.

Words by Katharyn Quinn