

Castlemaine Mail

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Locals moved to help save the Darling

Eve Lamb

A Maldon father-son team are headed to the Darling River to make a documentary film highlighting the environmental crisis impacting the iconic river system with the goal of helping to find a solution.

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Maldon filmmaker Rory McLeod is heading off to the troubled Darling River - together with Maldon anthropologist Peter Yates, to make documentary film - When the river runs dry.

Gold exploration to begin

Lisa Dennis

Kalamazoo Resources Limited has completed the sale of its Snake Well Gold Project in Western Australia and has signalled its intention to begin focusing on its Wattle Gully Gold Project in Castlemaine.

The \$7 million sale sees the company well placed to fund its exploration and drilling programs for the next two years at Castlemaine, the Cork Tree Copper Project in Western Australia, and its Pilbara gold tenements.

The Mail met with Kalamazoo exploration manager Luke Mortimer and field supervisor Mark Reinehr this week to discuss the company's plans for the Castlemaine project.

The company announced it had acquired the exploration licence for the Wattle Gully Gold Project in June 2018 and has also submitted an application for a second tenement south of the existing Wattle Gully tenement which it hopes will be approved this year.

The two tenements cover an area of 280 square kilometres from just south of Harcourt to just north of Glenlyon.

"We would describe the project as 'greenfields'. It is in the very early stages. We have no plans to reopen Wattle Gully Mine at this stage, but never say never. We are looking for a high-grade rich deposit," Mr Mortimer said.

The company is already on the ground beginning the process of moving former core samples from the Chewton mine to a secure location in Castlemaine and plans to begin geological mapping, rock and soil sampling over the coming months. Mr Mortimer said the company plan to conduct some drilling on potential target sites on the northern tenement in late 2019.

"We aim to keep our exploration within the pine plantation, Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park and state park where possible and look to avoid people," he said.

"We are very aware about community concerns regarding our presence and that they feel very strongly about heritage

sites and we have taken this on board.

"We would like to assure the community that we are required to work within strict rules and regulations, we are not allowed to touch heritage or indigenous sites and we are subject to requirements to fully rehabilitate drill sites," he said.

Mr Mortimer said that the company's goal is to discover and emulate Fosterville up the road, one of the richest gold mines in Australia, and if it was lucky enough to do so any future mining would be deep underground.

"We definitely would not be looking at open cut mining," he said.

Mr Mortimer said that the Castlemaine Goldfields, renowned as the world's richest alluvial goldfield, generated 5 million ounces of gold. In today's terms that would equate to around 6.5 Billion.

"We are here to find out whether it was on the surface and has eroded away, or if there more to be discovered."

Harcourt fires bring home message see page 3

view property see page 16

Junior coaches announced see page 30

HARCOURT **GOLDFIELDS TRACK CAFÉ** ESTD 2016

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Thursday and Friday 6 am, breakfast lunch and dinner.
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Sunday 8 am to 3 pm

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February 28 - Curry Night
March 7 - Burger Night
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Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

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8 Panton Street, Golden Square VIC 3555
P: 5444 4125 @mareeedwardsmp mareeedwardsmp
www.mareeedwards.com.au

Authorised by M Edwards, 8 Panton Street, Golden Square.
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