

Herd on the Terrace

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Mining curios getting curiouser

WA's uber prospector Mark Creasy yesterday added to his mining memorabilia at his West Perth offices.

The mining identity wanted to get his hands on the first bag of sulphate of potash produced by ASX-listed Australian Potash, a company in which his Yandal Investments holds a 10 per cent stake.

Australian Potash boss Matt Shackleton handed over the bag, accompanied by Hartleys chairman John Featherby and fellow APC shareholder Rick Indrisie.

The handover follows APC achieving another company milestone in December, producing 65kg of the high-value fertiliser with a purity of 98 per cent at its pilot plant in Canning Vale.

APC is targeting initial production of 250kg from its first batch of field-evaporated salts to provide samples for local and international customers.

Some of the product will also be used in a research program with the University of WA to gauge the effect of using sulphate of potash from the company's Lake Wells project, 500km north-east of Kalgoorlie, on WA soils and how it could be used in broadacre farming.

RIO GOES ALL SHY

There's a notable absentee from the Pilbara Copper & Gold Forum set down for Crown Perth on March 21.

The conference is "specifically focused" on the Paterson province in WA's Pilbara, "Australia's hottest new exploration address", according to the organisers.

They are promoting the event as an opportunity to "ascertain the real from the hype" while pumping up the region as "potentially ... the next Mt Isa".



Mark Creasy, front, with messrs Featherby, Shackleton and Indrisie.



The unwanted laptop satchel.

Rio Tinto's fevered activity in the Paterson has fuelled speculation it has made a monster copper discovery on its 10,000sqm of tenements in the region.

The mining giant isn't talking and it doesn't look like it will break its silence for next month's conference.

Sipa Resources and Carawine Resources are filling a couple of the speakers' spots, but there's no Rio.

SATCHEL SNUB

It seems not every one of the more than 2000 delegates at last

year's Diggers & Dealers Mining Forum in Kalgoorlie appreciated the free leather laptop bag that came with their registration for the annual event.

A Bull operative spotted this satchel in the South Street Salvo's store in O'Connor this week.

Shoppers had the chance to pick up the stylish yet functional bag at the bargain price of \$25.

LUCRATIVE LULO

Lucapa Diamond Company found big news in small things yesterday when it announced the sale of seven diamonds from its Lulo alluvial mine in Angola for \$US16.7 million (\$23 million).

Stephen Wetherall-led Lucapa operates and owns 40 per cent of the Lulo mine where mining started in 2015.

The diamonds that weighed 498 carats, less than 100g, were sold by an electronic tender run by the Angolan Government.

It was the first such sale in Angola under new laws introduced to improve transparency and prices.

Previously all diamonds were sold through a government agency.

The Perth-based company is also exploring for diamonds in the Kimberley, about 50km from the productive but now closed Ellendale mine.

WALKING A MILE ...

If a street vendor of The Big Issue next week looks familiar, it could in fact be your boss.

Business leaders will be taking a crack at flogging the magazine to passers-by in the CBD as part of the annual CEO Selling event.

In Perth they will include ABN Group boss Dale Alcock, BHP iron ore supremo Edgar Basto, Landcorp head honcho Frank Marra and Fortescue Metals Group chief operating officer Greg Lilleyman.

Over east, BHP chief executive Andrew Mackenzie, Deputy Opposition Leader Tanya Plibersek and Telstra boss Andrew Penn will be hunting for magazine buyers.

The Big Issue chief Steven Persson said: "Vendors are truly remarkable people. They come to The Big Issue from backgrounds of homelessness, marginalisation and disadvantage. Despite their circumstances, they're choosing to work and get back on their feet."

"CEO Selling is all about our corporate leaders showing the rest of the country that vendors are legitimate businesspeople who sell a brilliant product."

It's held during International Vendor Week each year, a celebration of 9000 street paper vendors in 35 countries.

In Australia, 550 vendors sell The Big Issue. They buy copies of the magazine for \$4.50 and sell them for \$9.

with Stuart McKinnon and Peter Milne