

»Variety Bash rolls in with gift for Georgia and her family



»AMAZING GIFT: Georgia Duncan will receive a new wheelchair thanks to Variety, and her parents, Peter and Maree Campagnolo, couldn't be happier for her. PHOTO: KAITLYN GUTZKE EME300713GEORGIA1

Teen can't wait for new wheels

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GEORGIA Duncan's wheelchair has seen better days.

It has been pulled apart and put back together more times than her parents Peter and Maree Campagnolo can count.

But the lounge room will no longer be the family's wheelchair workshop, because Georgia is to be given a brand new electric model to zip around in.

"The (old) wheelchair is definitely on its last legs,"

Peter said.

"If that motor dies again, I won't be able to bring it back to life this time."

Georgia was born with pyruvate dehydrogenase deficiency, a neurodegenerative disorder associated with abnormal mitochondrial metabolism.

She was given a life expectancy of just six months.

Georgia is now 18 years old and is excited to receive a new wheelchair, which will improve Georgia's quality of life.

"She has nearly grown out

of this wheelchair; she has had it for six years," Peter said.

"The new wheelchair is completely electrical, so she can lift her seat to the same height as people, so she doesn't have to look up at people all the time, and she can also adjust her headrest and her footrests."

Georgia and her parents are grateful to receive the donation from Variety and local charities.

"With a lot of government funding Georgia misses out, because her condition is rare and doesn't quite fit into a

category," Peter said.

"It makes us feel really good that there are charities like Variety that help families like ours."

Georgia will receive her wheelchair at a Variety Bash presentation at the Emerald Showgrounds at 1.30pm on Sunday. The XXXX Gold Sun, Saddles and Surf Variety Bash departs Emerald on Monday (6am) on Egerton St.

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Mining leaders take gloomy view of industry's prospects

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MINING leaders have a gloomy outlook, with industry confidence at its lowest ebb as they accept that all they can control in a volatile marketplace are costs, productivity and efficiency measures.

The Newport Consulting report surveyed industry heavyweights who spoke about operational cost blowouts in the past year and the stifling effect on new projects.

"Weaker demand, a higher

Newport Consulting

Businesses are feeling a ripple effect from the pullback.

dollar and regulatory burdens from the carbon and mining taxes have forced miners to focus on reducing costs over the last six months through job cuts, small mine closures and project expansion delays."

The report canvassed businesses servicing the mining sector, where the mood was overwhelmingly negative.

"These businesses are feeling a ripple effect from the pullback on spend, with many struggling to survive, closing their doors or reducing staff and costs despite once benefiting from the boom," the report said.

"In other cases, contractors and suppliers have been asked by miners to lower their charges as mining companies attempt to streamline business

operations while squashing the margins of service providers."

The biggest losers from the industry downturn were infrastructure, logistics, transport, engineering, labour supply, maintenance, computing and other specialised areas.

"While the long-term opportunity remains, firms need to recognise that investors will increasingly look through their businesses to the quality of the underlying resource projects they service," the report said.

July heats up weather records

THE Central Highlands have had the hottest July in 22 years.

A Weatherzone forecaster said this month's temperatures had been the warmest for a long time, with average daytime temperatures of 24.5 degrees.

"Sydney and Melbourne are likely to have their hottest July ever, and for you (Central Highlands) it looks like the warmest in 22 years," the forecaster said.

"We've seen the warm air mass lingering over southern and central Queensland virtually for the entire month, and a dominance of high-pressure systems, which means days have been mostly sunny."

Temperatures on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will be a little colder in the mornings, with about seven degrees expected, but the afternoon temperatures will be back up around the mid-20s mark.

Anger at grand final relocation

THE Clermont community is outraged the Central Highlands Junior Rugby League committee has moved the grand final to Dysart.

The CQ News has been inundated with letters and phone calls from supporters and residents demanding an explanation for the change of location.

Queensland Rugby League Central Division manager Rex Zeeman was tight-lipped but said he was satisfied with the committee's decision.

"No record to be set straight," Mr Zeeman said.

"No story here."

He would not answer questions regarding a fight between the under-18 Clermont Bears and the Blackwater Crushers earlier this month, saying the behavior didn't help the Bears' cause.

You can read more about this story in Friday's CQ News.

Serious business this



Everyone in the coal mining industry deserves the right to return home safely.

But this 'right' doesn't come easily. The effort is high. Industry accident statistics show that a small minority are not prepared to put in a big effort. Unsafe acts are 90% of all our industry accidents.



In the classroom

There is the obvious effort of complying with Rules and Regulations. The Generic induction, for example, addresses the most important ones but often people doing a generic induction have to put in a special effort as they are in the midst of changing jobs, changing towns, changing social networks for the family etc. Then there is the

hidden effort of forcing your mind to concentrate on the safety aspects of the training that is peculiar to your needs.



Starting on the job

There is a huge obligation placed upon every coal mine worker when they sign accepting the job on the mine site. They are obliged to comply with all the Rules and that problem is the Rules are different from mine site to mine site. Once again, close attention paid to the instructor during the 'Generic' will pay dividends in the ensuing weeks until you get settled and tune into the system.

Serious business this. To return home safely.

It is a long and winding road to ensure coal mine workers return home safely.

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