
NEWS

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“ENCOURAGING” COMMUNITY TURN OUT FOR PENRICE MINE OPEN DAY

An open day at the Penrice mine at Angaston has been hailed a huge success after around 1000 visitors toured the facility on Sunday (20th September).

The event attracted a wide variety of people with ages ranging from the very young to the elderly.

The open day – the first at the mine in about six years – was organised as a direct result of increasing interest from local residents about the operations of the historic business, which has been operating for nearly 60 years.

Penrice Soda Holdings Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Guy Roberts, said the level of interest shown by the local community and the positive feedback on the mine was most pleasing at a time of significant demand for product from the mine.

“We were keen to show the community the considerable investments we have made in recent years in new staff and mine equipment, as well as the work we’ve done on the environmental side,” Mr Roberts said.

“It was a great day enjoyed by a large number of people, and we were encouraged by the interest shown by the local community, and tourists visiting the region from interstate and overseas,” he said.

“People were very keen to learn for themselves how the mine operated on a daily basis, its environmental impact, the integral role it plays for the many businesses in the Valley and beyond, and the economic benefits – in the region, state-wide and nationally - that occur as a direct result of our operations.

“There was also particular interest in the progress of various initiatives being undertaken to reduce the environmental impact of the mine.

“An example of this is the new \$1 million front entrance upgrade at the mine, which is being undertaken in line with the wishes of both Penrice and the local residents to continue a process of minimising noise, dust and drag out associated with road transport to and from the mine.

“The Penrice Community Consultative Group has played an important role in progressing these initiatives since meetings began in 2008.”

Mr Roberts said Sunday's 20-minute bus tours of the operations proved extremely popular, with many people prepared to wait in a queue for up to 15 minutes to get a seat on one of the five mini-buses operating running on the day.

"The feedback we received from many of those who attended was that they have always known about the mine, but weren't actually aware of the diversity of its business, and especially its vital role in the wine industry, via limestone and soda ash to make wine bottles," Mr Roberts said.

"Today was a great opportunity for us to explain face to face with a large number of people what we do – and I think they were very appreciative of the opportunity," he said.

"The people have spoken with their feet, we hear them, and we will definitely be holding open days more regularly than we have previously."

The popular bus tour took people on a 20-minute tour of the mine facility, with a senior mine employee explaining the various aspects of the operations throughout.

The bus travelled around the 1.8km wide x 800m wide pit, through the aggregate plant, sales area and general machinery area, before returning to the office and mobile fleet vehicle area.

As well as the bus tours of the mine site, a public display explaining where the diverse range of products produced by the mine are used, also proved of huge interest.

So too was the sausage sizzle organised by the Angaston Lions Club , with people queuing throughout the day for a bite to eat with donations going to the upgrade of the community playground in Angaston. A range of native plants offered by the Barossa Bush Garden Group was also popular with many visitors.

About Penrice

Penrice is the only manufacturer of soda ash in Australia and a significant producer and distributor of sodium bicarbonate in international markets, exporting to 27 countries.

Its Chemicals business, based at Osborne South Australia, supplies two key chemical ranges:

- Soda ash is sold in the Australian market as a vital ingredient in products ranging from glass containers (especially wine and beer bottles), flat glass for building and construction, washing powder and the mining industry.

- Sodium bicarbonate is a specialty chemical used in a variety of applications as diverse as food, pharmaceuticals, medical, personal care products and stock feed. The Company focuses on a premium range of high-quality products which suit the most demanding applications.

Its Quarry & Mineral business is based at the Penrice mine at Angaston South Australia. While the mine supplies a vital ingredient into the chemical process at Osborne, it is also a significant supplier of aggregates and other materials to a variety of end-uses, such as civil & construction, roads, landfill, glass, mineral processing, agriculture, stockfeed and landscaping.

Penrice is an ASX listed public company, which has operated successfully since the 1930's.

The Company directly employs around 300 people, and is a major South Australian employer and a vital link in the Australian glass industry and other prominent downstream industries, such as the building industry and the wine industry.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Guy Roberts
Managing Director & CEO
Penrice Soda Holdings
(08) 8402 7242

Sean Whittington
Field Public Relations
(08) 8234 9555
(0412) 591 520