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SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM STAFF AT
THE DAILY MERCURY

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GIFTS AND ON BOXING DAY **PAGE 3**

Just one year after sacking 180 workers Macarthur Coal has bounced back with a \$1.2b takeover plan which will make them the biggest independent coal producer in Australia

MACARTHUR NEW KING OF THE COAL PILE

By **CLARE CHAPMAN**
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IN a massive turnaround since last Christmas Queensland mining giant Macarthur Coal has announced its intention to take full ownership of Mid-dlemount mine and acquire Gloucester Coal in a \$1.2 billion deal.

This time last year the global financial crisis took its toll on Macarthur forcing it to slash production by 25 per cent and cut 180 staff.

The merged company is likely to be worth about \$4.5 billion and will become the biggest independent coal producer in Australia.

Macarthur managing director Nicole Hollows said the takeover deal would create jobs in the central region, double the compa-

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Sprightly great-grandmother celebrates shared birthday with Jesus

Party proves icing on the cake for Flo's 101st birthday

By CLARE CHAPMAN
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FLORENCE Domini has a special birthday at the best of times, but this year it will be an extra special celebration.

Tomorrow, on the birthday she shares with Jesus, Florence will celebrate her 101st year.

Florence was born in England in 1908, the same year the first long distance radio message was sent from the Eiffel Tower.

Tomorrow, more than a century later, a long way from that first long distance radio message and her home in England, Florence will enjoy another birthday and a Christmas dinner, something her mother also

managed to do in 1908.

"I was born at ten past six on Christmas Day," she said.

"My mother said she was glad I let her have her Christmas dinner.

I was born at ten past six on Christmas Day. My mother said she was glad I let her have her Christmas dinner.

— Florence Domini

"I wasn't supposed to come for Christmas," she said.

Florence moved to Mackay six months ago and now

resides at the Northview Aged Care Centre in Glenelg.

The centre put on an early birthday for Florence on Tuesday, who will celebrate again tomorrow with staff and residents at the home. But the highlight of any birthday celebration for this sprightly great-grandmother is the cake.

"I think this huge cake is marvellous. I've never had such a big cake," she said.

Grandson Sean Domini said Florence had always been an avid reader.

"She is very sharp, she reads a lot which I think keeps her mind active," Mr Domini said.

Florence has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Florence Domini will celebrate her 101st birthday at Northview Aged Care Centre on Christmas Day with family and friends including grandson Sean Domini. PHOTO: LAUREN REED 21209/024

Jackie - Hand Bag Enthusiast

Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre will be open this Saturday 26th December

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9.00am - 3.00pm

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Macarthur's king of the coal pile

FROM PAGE 1

ny's production in the next few years and signalled the return of a strong market.

The company operates the Coppabella and Moorvale mines in the Bowen Basin and is set to take full ownership of the Middlemount coal mine, of which it currently owns 74.66 per cent.

"The expansion gives us more resilience and reduces some of the risks that we have experienced in the past," Ms Hollows explained.

She said Macarthur's quick 12-month turnaround was due

to increase production in the middle of the year when China imported the company's excess product.

"You can thank China for the quick turnaround because they

"You can thank China for the quick turnaround..."

— Nicole Hollows

imported all the surplus product. That allowed us to ramp

up production."

The conditional agreement announced on Tuesday would see the company expand into New South Wales, operate eight mines and ship from both Abbot Point and Newcastle.

"Macarthur Coal will have a greatly-expanded scale and diversity in terms of geography, mines, ports and products," Ms Hollows said.

"Our goal is to double production within five years."

Macarthur spokesperson Alasdair Jeffrey said the deal was likely to be done by May.

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