Geelong Refinery update

Future Focus

2018 will see three more important growth projects at the refinery. As the only manufacturer of bitumen in Australia the announcement of a new $15M bitumen import/export facility will enable us to almost double our bitumen production and supply even more customers with a locally produced product.

Apart from operating safety and reliably, which is always our first priority, we have made great progress on both our business improvement plan and our growth program. A huge milestone in October was the completion of our new crude oil tank. The $50M project to build the 100ML tank employed 120 people and not only increases the production capabilities of the refinery, but also improves fuel supply security for Victoria.

As well as the tank, October marked the addition of a $4M jet fuel gantry which will improve supply of fuel to Melbourne and Avalon airports. Our growth projects are not slowing down in 2018 either with plans for a $15M bitumen import/export gantry, a new $23M gasoline tank and a $7M revamp of our crude distillation unit furnace.

Work also continues in implementing our change program which is vital to ensure we remain competitive and bring our operations in line with international best practice. Whilst change can sometimes be difficult, we remain resolute in our plans to take the necessary steps to build a safe and sustainable business and keep almost 700 refinery jobs in Geelong.

With so much positive activity at the refinery it’s also important to note that we are facing some significant challenges. Like for most Australians, rising gas and electricity prices are of great concern. Even though we are investing in projects to lower our energy consumption we expect to face a $25M increase in annual energy costs, effectively wiping out much of our hard won business improvements over the last three years. This disappointing policy failure will continue to make manufacturing in Australia very challenging.

Without a doubt, a highlight of the year has been participating in our community programs. A few weeks ago our CEO Scott Wyatt and I were delighted to host the gala dinner of the Club Legends award to recognise the unsung heroes of Greater Geelong’s sporting clubs. I am proud that through this new program Viva Energy can support such inspiring role models. I want to congratulate all the winners, finalists and participants for their remarkable contribution to their clubs and to the community.

Other recent events have included the 50 strong Viva Energy cycling team for Around the Bay raising more than $22,000 for our community partner, The Smith Family, and our involvement in mental health week supporting our national community partner headspace, youth mental health foundation.

Another highlight was Viva Energy’s first Open Day in August where we welcomed more than 2,000 people to come and learn more about what we do. It’s these sorts of activities and the combined efforts of all our people and partners that makes me very proud to work at the Geelong Refinery and to be part of this great community. Thank you to all our neighbours and community and business partners for your continued support in 2017.

REFINERY NEWS

Summer Fuel Supply

Did you know it is more difficult to operate refineries efficiently in hot weather due to increased air and water temperatures?

However, demand for fuels such as jet fuel increase significantly in the lead-up to the summer holiday period.

Viva Energy’s mission is to help people reach their destination and when this involves a holiday destination, it’s a very serious mission indeed. That’s why we are currently undergoing annual pre summer maintenance and cleaning to ensure we maintain production to supply our customers like Qantas and Virgin Australia.
In the Community

Viva Energy is committed to giving back to our local communities. Over a four-year period we are investing up to $6 million into community projects that support mental health, Indigenous participation and substance misuse.

We do this through working with our people, our communities, our business and our business practices.

Greater Geelong has a new Club Legend

Roger Allen, Treasurer of the North Geelong Cricket Club, has become the first Viva Energy Club Legend.

At an awards evening recently held at Kardinia Park, Roger was recognised for his dedication and patience in nurturing the club’s junior members and instilling in them a love of sport.

Roger said, “Winning the Viva Energy Club Legend award is a very humbling experience. I would like to thank Viva Energy for initiating this award and congratulate all the volunteers who were nominated.”

Where would our communities be without volunteers?” Roger took home $5,000 as an individual prize and $5,000 for the North Geelong Cricket Club.

Claire Barnes, Executive Committee Member of Newtown City Hockey Club, was runner up and received $2,000 as well as $2,000 for her club. The People’s Choice award went to Josip Zilic, Junior Coach and Operations Manager for North Geelong Warriors Football Club. Josip also won $2,000 for both himself and his club. Congratulations also goes to all our finalists, who each received $1,000 for themselves and their clubs.

Getting to a better headspace

On 9 October, Viva Energy celebrated headspace day and the start of National Mental Health Week. Mental health is something that can affect all of us, and one in four 12-25 year olds have experienced a mental health issue during the past 12 months. Alarmingly, suicide is the leading cause of death of young people.

Viva Energy is very proud of our partnership with headspace and, in particular, our Mental Health Role Models program which empowers young mental health ambassadors to promote help-seeking amongst other young people.

Over the past year, the $200,000 in funding support that Viva Energy has provided has enabled 145 young people to participate in 26 training and upskilling programs including Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Throughout the week we embarked on activities that highlight the importance of mental health.

In Geelong, headspace came out to the refinery and we took time out to think about what activities put us in a better headspace.

Open Day Success

Viva Energy’s first Open Day was a huge success in August with more than 2,000 people attending the event to learn how the Geelong Refinery helps keep Victoria moving.

It was a delight to see so many families enjoying the entertainment and celebrity guests, as well as gaining an appreciation for what a large and important contribution we make to the Geelong, Victorian and Australian economies.

If you attended the day, make sure you check out the photos on our website.

Role model grant applications closing soon

Each year we invite Geelong’s not-for-profit organisations to apply for grants of up to $5,000 to help role models from registered education facilities or non-profit organisations working in mental illness, substance misuse or breaking the poverty cycle.

For more information and tips on how to submit an application, go to our website www.vivaenergy.com.au/community.

Applications close on 20 November 2017.

Northern Futures

Congratulations to our three Viva Energy Role Model Scholarship recipients who recently graduated at Northern Futures with a Certificate III in Individual Support.

During the 30 week course, delivered at Northern Futures by The Gordon, these students completed 23 weeks of part-time coursework and seven weeks of full-time work placement at Northern Futures industry partners in the health and aged care sector. Viva Energy was proud to provide financial support to help these women complete their studies. Two of the three scholarship recipients are now in full-time employment in aged care and the third is undertaking further study, hoping to move into nursing.

This is part of a three-year $120,000 partnership, where Viva Energy is providing scholarships that remove financial barriers for Northern Futures participants experiencing economic disadvantage, mental illness or substance misuse. Since the program began in 2016, more than 30 students have benefited from these scholarships.