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Role: Area Manager - Rockhampton

Company: Hastings Deering

Home location: North Rockhampton

Work location: Rockhampton

How long have you worked in the resources industry?

I've been in the resources industry since 2003. I started as an apprentice at a gold mine in New South Wales and moved to Queensland in 2009 to work with Hastings Deering as a diesel fitter.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the challenge of running a business or department within a Caterpillar dealership and the journey of coming through the ranks. I started as an apprentice learning the trade, then over time became the go-to person for fixing breakdowns, and major repairs. Eventually, I led a team in Field Service, the workshop and managed a department of rebuilds and repairs. Now, I'm overseeing multiple business centres, and the job satisfaction from getting things right for the customer makes it all worth it. The learning never stops.

What's something people wouldn't expect about your role?

People might be surprised by how much we engage with the community. We participate in weekly breakfasts with the local school, mow their lawns, present awards on sports days, and attend Anzac Day ceremonies. It's a part of the job that not many people are aware of.

Where do you live and what do you love about your community?

I live in North Rockhampton, and I love the variety it offers. We have mountains for hiking or climbing and downhill biking, some of the best beaches in the world, Keppel Island just off the coast, and excellent fishing and camping spots. We also have CQ University, which means my kids can experience both the big city feel and the country life.

What drew you to the industry and what's kept you here?

As a kid, I always wanted to understand how things worked, so becoming a diesel fitter was a natural path for me. I enjoyed fixing things, and this led to a fascination in mining equipment, which was bigger and more complex than other mechanical trades. What has kept me in the industry are the close-knit relationships I've built and the opportunities within the resources industry in Australia. I've moved all over the east coast, from NSW to Victoria and then up to Queensland. Working for the Caterpillar dealer, I believe a premium product attracts premium people.

What does a typical day look like?

There isn't really a typical day, and that's what makes the role exciting and challenging. We could be attending a customer site, participating in a community event, working on equipment assembly, handling rebuilds, or dealing with breakdowns. Every day brings its own challenges.

Why do you think the resources sector matters to Queensland?

The resources sector has helped build many communities over time. Places like Moura, Blackwater, Dysart, and Moranbah have all grown because of these resources. Our steel making coal ships globally and our thermal coal is some of the best the world has to offer which supports power generation in our country and others. Queensland is a great place with tight-knit communities that have a global impact. That's why the resources industry is important to me.

What are you passionate about inside or outside of work?

At work, I'm passionate about getting the best out of people. As a fitter, I focused on doing the best job I could. Now, in leadership roles, it's about helping my team perform their best. Understanding the people side of the business and working with them to achieve great results is a challenge I enjoy.

What's something you're proud of professionally or personally?

I'm proud of completing a master's degree in business last year, despite not finishing high school. Personally, I'm proud of supporting my family and giving my kids a better start in life than I had.

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