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Media Release:

Premier Coal Farewells 440 years of Dedicated Service

Thirteen Premier Coal production operators were officially bid a fond farewell into retirement, celebrating over 440 years of combined service to Premier Coal mine.

The occasion was marked with a presentation and afternoon tea on 7 September at the Collie Ridge Resort, where the workers, their families and Premier Coal Management could reflect and celebrate their long and valued contribution.

All the retirees have more than 10 years of service as production operators at Premier Coal mine. They were highly skilled, experienced, dynamic and safety minded employees, who were key to the success of the mine's operation.

The Premier Coal workers honoured were:

- Brett Simm - 40 years
- Kevin Milligan - 41 years
- Peter Davidson - 10 years
- Steven Harms - 39 years
- David Laird - 33 years
- Robert Graham - 52 years
- Trevor Welsh - 11 years
- Peter Pianta - 45 years
- Mark Malatesta - 11 years
- Michael Hollins - 42 years
- Brian Tonkin - 44 years
- Peter Bignell - 37 years
- Brian Tanian - 42 years

The retirees welcomed the opportunity to get together and reminisce on the early days of their careers, working in the underground operations and Western Areas open cut prior to Premier Mine commencing.

Many stories and laughs were shared about experiences when it all began and even some near misses underground back in the day before safety standards were improved.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was sincerely grateful for their years of service to the site.

"This is a big milestone for Premier Coal, and we were thrilled we could celebrate together at the event. We are extremely grateful for all the individuals' dedicated service to the mine.

“They were all hardworking, skilled, knowledgeable, and integral members of the team, who will not be forgotten.

“Some of these employees started when they were 15 years old and have worked in several roles over the decades.

“They have also witnessed a lot of change in the mining industry over that time and this knowledge will be missed on site.

“We wish everyone all the best in their retirement,” said Braedon.

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Media contact:

Tracy Woodley

tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;