



Mining and horse breeding coexisting in the Hunter Valley – Edinglassie Stud and BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal mine



Mining and horse breeding have been important industries in the Hunter Valley for many years. They continue to exist side by side, and in the case of Edinglassie, the property is owned by a coal company, BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal.

About Edinglassie

Edinglassie is a historic 500-acre property on the banks of the Hunter River. It is an Australian heritage listed property, initially settled by the White family 150 years ago. More recently, Edinglassie was the home of Rosemount Wines, but is currently operated as Edinglassie Thoroughbred Stud.

BHP Billiton Mt Arthur Coal purchased Edinglassie in 1998. It continues to be operated as a thoroughbred stud by its current leases, Mick and Michelle Talty, both of whom completed an Associate Diploma in Horse Management from Glenormiston Agricultural College in 1987.

Since the land was purchased by BHP Billiton, the stud has continued to produce high quality thoroughbred race horses. Edinglassie's Group One race winners include Bentley Biscuit, Wonderful World, Gods Own, Nadeem, Tell a Tale, Sharscay, Miss Margaret, Suntain, Emerald dream and Lasserfaire. Approximately 50 foals were born at Edinglassie stud in 2011.

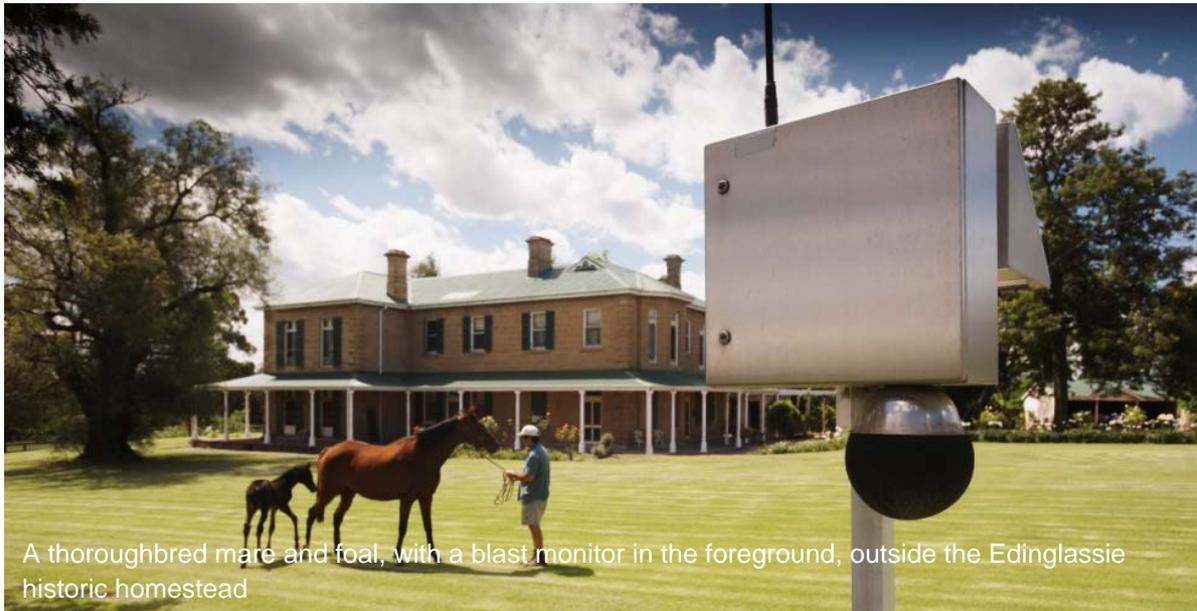
Although the hilly country of the Mt Arthur Coal mine site is only suitable for limited to low intensity agriculture, the bordering alluvial lands of the Hunter River, on which Edinglassie is situated, provide fertile irrigated pastures with undulating hills for young stock and lucerne pastures for mares and foals.

Relationship with Mt Arthur Coal

Edinglassie is located approximately 500 metres from the boundary of Mt Arthur Coal and is separated from the mine by Denman Road. The property was purchased by BHP Billiton as it was considered to be within an area which would be impacted by the mine.

Despite the close proximity of the two properties, Edinglassie's lower elevation means that the Mt Arthur Coal mine is not visible from the horse stud.

Mt Arthur Coal also monitors its potential impacts on the Edinglassie stud and homestead, which include vibration from blasting, dust and noise, using a range of monitors located at the property.



A thoroughbred mare and foal, with a blast monitor in the foreground, outside the Edinglassie historic homestead

According to lessee Mick Talty, Edinglassie continues to produce winning race horses despite its proximity to nearby mines.

“Edinglassie stud has a good reputation in the local industry for breeding good race horses and selling quality foals.

“Both industries have been around a long time and the fact that we are continuing to provide the local industry with quality horses shows that mining and thoroughbred farmers have worked side by side.

“There have been a number of benefits of Edinglassie being owned by a mine. These include upgrades to facilities and ongoing maintenance to ensure the property is kept to a high standard and retains its aesthetic value,” he said.



Due to its European historical significance, Edinglassie is one of three properties owned by Mt Arthur Coal that are intended to protect areas of cultural heritage. As such, the Edinglassie stables and homestead are kept in accordance with their heritage value.

Since BHP Billiton has owned the property, a number of restorations have been undertaken with the supervision of qualified engineers and builders. These include improvements to the homestead, butcher's hut and the stables, post and rail fencing, waste water management and drainage improvements, lawn and garden maintenance and tree trimming to ensure Edinglassie is maintained to a high standard.



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