

SE Business
HD **Ausdrill pedal power: a story of lycra, rain and \$50 notes**
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LP

Ausdrill chief financial officer Jose Martins is a mad keen cyclist who leads a team of fellow execs at the **mining** services outfit pedalling around the Hills on a weekend.

Once a year this lycra-clad clique gets really serious and does a four-day ride home from the management retreat from Ausdrill boss Ron Sayers' Peaceful Bay holiday property.

TD

Since setting out last Friday the weather has not been kind, buffeting the hardy cyclists each day with **wind** and rain. To their credit, they didn't chuck it in.

And there was a bizarre reward of sorts for their efforts when they set out for the Canning Vale HQ from Waroona on Monday morning.

As they pushed on for the city, the cyclists kept coming across \$50 notes lying about the roadside. About \$1200 in all. It turns out the cash had fallen from a vehicle used in a bank robbery in Waroona that day, reported in this journal and elsewhere.

The execs, being the honest fellows that they are, handed the loot to police.

NOT FORGOTTEN

Len Buckeridge was not shy in his dealings with unionists, as most would know. So it was in keeping with that image that the late **billionaire** dealt with a flare-up at the construction site of BGC Contracting's new building in Osborne Park.

Speaking at the building's opening last night, son Sam Buckeridge said when the CFMEU once tried to block the site with a car, Len reacted typically. A forklift was directed to remove the offending vehicle. The unionists, Sam said, quickly decided to drive it out of the way.

Len also succeeded in persuading the City of Stirling to relax its two-storey limit on the site by adding another 10 floors.

Len's widow Tootsie and Resources Minister Bill Marmion did the honours last night, unveiling a plaque dedicated to Len with a remote-controlled model dump truck. BGC Contracting chief executive Greg Heylen handed over a cheque for about \$116,000 to non-profit FIFO Families .

Last night marked the first public event for the Buckeridge family since putting Len to rest in March.

HASLAM OUT

Former Territory Resources boss Andy Haslam is back on the hunt for a new full-time gig, having parted ways with Chris Ellison's Mineral Resources .

While the rock-kicking whispering set was quick to suggest Haslam's departure might be the first sign of a new price-led apocalypse among Pilbara's **iron ore** producers, Ellison played down any suggestion Haslam's departure was linked to the metal's price plunge this month.

The MinRes squillionaire said Haslam was hired in 2012 to bring the **company**'s Pilbara projects into development, and with the job now mostly done it was an appropriate time to say farewell.

Haslam couldn't be contacted.

The Bull's sources suggest he is a trifle disappointed he won't get to play with MinRes' new shiny red **Chinese**-built train set, with first locomotives arriving in Perth this week and wagons about to begin rolling off the wharves shortly.

While the end of the MinRes gig leaves Haslam looking for a new full-time role, it may make his non-executive director's life at BC **Iron** a touch easier. With both companies at pains to ensure there was no leakage across the two rivals, sources suggest Haslam was sometimes forced to spend almost as much time in the corridor as in BC board meetings.

PILBARA VIRGIN

Just two weeks after handing fly-in fly-out specialist Alliance Aviation its biggest contract, BHP Billiton has shared the love with Virgin Australia .

Qantas' archrival yesterday revealed it, too, had won an initial three-year FIFO contract from BHP to carry workers to and from the Barimunya and Coondewanna airports in the Pilbara. Virgin is keeping mum about the value of the deal.

The Flying Kangaroo, meanwhile, is also thought to have picked up some of BHP's frequent flyers, with Qantas' announcement due anytime.

IN THE CHAIR

Cheryl Edwardes on Monday took up the chair at the Andrew Forrest -backed **Energy** & Minerals Australia , sans any **equity** in the **uranium** hopeful.

If only she had bought some EMA stock when she was announced as chairman in February and the shares were worth 3¢.

This month came news of Forrest's \$12 **million** cash injection at 3¢, which sent EMA's stock above 8¢. The stock closed at 5.3¢ yesterday.

With Peter Williams, Nick Evans

and Sean Smith

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