

INSIDE: Find out who won last night's NRL local derby between the Titans and Broncos — Sport

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RUDD'S VOW TO MACKAY:

HOW I'LL SAVE THE MINING INDUSTRY

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd yesterday insisted the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme would not destroy jobs in the Bowen Basin. He made the statement during a two-day visit to Mackay in which he officially opened the Mackay Water Recycling Treatment Plant.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT 240709/051

EXCLUSIVE: Prime Minister tells of his commitment to use new technology to protect coal jobs in our region **PAGE 4**

**PLUS: THE PM GOES
BACK TO SCHOOL P5**



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I am absolutely determined we will get this done and the idea is

Prime Minister ensuring future

My brekkie with PM Kevin Rudd

By **BIANCA CLARE**
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COMMENT

KEVIN Rudd likes to start his day on the road with a bowl of muesli and skim milk.

I discovered this quirky fact while sitting across the table from the Prime Minister at an informal breakfast meeting yesterday morning.

We were seated in the outdoor dining area of the Clarion Hotel at the Mackay Marina with Daily Mercury editor David Fisher and Rudd's press secretary Sean Kelly.

Rudd, wearing a crisp white business shirt without a tie, had impeccable table manners.

He said his please and thank-yous, kept his elbows off the table and didn't talk while chewing.

In addition to his bowl of muesli and skim milk, Rudd ordered a cappuccino and supported our cane farming industry by adding sugar.

We had a casual chat about Mackay before switching on the voice recorder and beginning a 15 minute interview.

Early morning walkers dropped past the table to say hi to the Prime Minister.

Sarina couple Karl and Bronwyn Perna asked how he liked his job as Prime Minister and how he coped with the pressure.

"It's satisfying because you get to make a difference to things," Rudd said.

"That is if you see a problem you can either say, well we can fix it, we can deal with part of it or you can explain why you can't deal with it.

"With those you can get on and fix, you can see the



Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Mackay yesterday. PHOTO: PETER HOLT

results of what you are doing.

"It's tough and demanding but when you go into national political life you take that as part and parcel of the job."

A dog walker yelled out "God bless you Kevin, you're doing a good job" and several others waved.

When asked about Member for Dawson James Bidgood, Rudd said he was first class.

"The reason is he's constantly in our face about what this region needs," he said.

"I mean constantly, constantly in our face about what this region needs.

"You can't ignore James.

"If you were to put the bottom line ruler across where this region was in terms of Federal Government investment before as opposed to where it is now, there is a measurable, quantifiable difference.

"That is in part due to the fact he is in our face.

"That's the job of an effective local member.

"He's not just a squeaky wheel, he's a wheel in himself."

By **BIANCA CLARE**
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KEVIN Rudd insists the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) will not destroy the Bowen Basin coal mining industry.

In fact, he believes CPRS – which is aimed at reducing greenhouse emissions by forcing companies that breach "caps" to buy carbon credits – will stop our coal exports from becoming disadvantaged in the international market.

Speaking exclusively to the Daily Mercury yesterday the Prime Minister said governments around the world were already flagging the possibility of punitive tariffs against those countries which do not act on emissions trading or the CPRS.

"In other words putting up a tariff wall against general imports from those ... countries and we don't want that to happen to Australia, we certainly don't want that to happen to Australian coal," Mr Rudd said.

Mining companies and the opposition, in particular LNP Senator for Queensland Barnaby Joyce, have not been shy in expressing concerns that the coal industry would have to spend billions of dollars or reduce production and cut jobs under the CPRS.

However the Prime Minister said he was very mindful of regions such as Mackay which are strong coal centres for the country and that carbon capture storage (CCS) would help move the industry forward.

Carbon capture and storage is a process that captures carbon dioxide and transports it to a site where it is injected deep underground for long-term safe and secure storage.

Mr Rudd said at the G8 summit recently in Italy, with US president Barack Obama, he launched the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute.

"This is all about what we globally (can do) about clean coal so that economies around the world can have confidence in the future that when they import coal for electricity generation that it can be safely captured and stored," he said.

"Worldwide there are a lot of good ideas about this at the moment but no real large scale projects.



Kevin Rudd chats with FK Gardner and Sons site manager Colin Feeney at the Central State School building site yesterday. PHOTO: PETER HOLT 230709/087

"What are we doing about it? Here's one; this institute we have established globally is to get economies around the world focused on the best technologies, the best regulation and the best set of projects to invest (in) and get going using carbon capture and storage technologies on large scale coal-fired power stations – the principal consumers of coal which is exported from regions like this and around Australia.

"Secondly, we are also as a Government investing some \$2.5 billion now in clean coal technology projects ourselves."

Mr Rudd said he intended to get three CCS projects across the country done in partnership with the private sector.

"Looking at this strategically is really important for the long term future of coal," he said.

Mr Rudd said the G8 had committed itself to having 20 CCS coal-fired power

stations operating by 2020 and he was committed to supporting this.

"The study we commissioned last year which gave rise to our initiative established that none of these are currently under construction, so we have ten years to go and this huge political commitment so that's when I basically said you know 'bugger it' ... let's just get on and do it," he said.

"That's why we did the global stuff and that's why we did this large national initiative.

"I am absolutely determined this won't, you know, get lost in the woodwork. I am absolutely determined we will get this done and the idea is for us to be the world leaders.

"We have a huge self interest at stake, we are the world's largest coal exporting country as well as doing the right thing for the environment."

The Government aims to introduce CPRS by 2011 as the primary way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



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for us to be the world leaders: Kevin Rudd in Mackay yesterday backs carbon credits as for coal remains strong



Mackay Central State School student Lucky Mbiza had some famous visitors yesterday when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Member for Dawson James Bidgood dropped in for some lessons.

PHOTO: FALLON HUDSON 240709



Whitsunday Anglican School students, from left Jordan Berry, Kate Millett and Brittany Rushby get their picture with Kevin Rudd at Mackay Harbour.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

School visitor's a ruddy good bloke

By FALLON HUDSON
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AS Prime Minister Kevin Rudd walked out onto the front lawn of Central State School, a few of his younger fans could be heard whispering – "Hey look it's Ruddy".

Yesterday, Mr Rudd made some new friends at Central State School where he spoke with students, parents and teachers on his short visit to Mackay.

After shaking the students' hands many were very excited and said they were not going to wash their hands for a week.

Mr Rudd visited the school to check out the construction of two new projects the Federal Government has helped fund through the Building the Education Revolution program.

More than \$2 million is being spent on buildings which should be completed by November.

Mr Rudd addressed the school community by saying it was great to be back in Mackay.



Kevin Rudd might be the country's most important person but even his five minutes of fame doesn't always leave a lasting impression on some.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT 240709/174

"This is one of Queensland's great state schools which was opened by (former Queensland premier) Forgan Smith.

"There are 200 young Queenslanders at this school who will now receive an additional \$1 million multi-purpose hall."

He said the Federal Government will spend more than \$100 million on schools in the Mackay region.

Central State School principal Phil Wilson said the PM's visit was a great pleasure.

"He is such a personal fellow

who took the time and made it a special occasion for the kids."

Mr Wilson showed the Prime Minister around the construction site, giving him a guided tour of the hall site.

It will house basketball, netball and volleyball as well as a resources centre which will be an information technology hub to hold special communication classes.

"It was wonderful that Mr Rudd knew that Forgan Smith laid the foundations of the school," he said.

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