

CONTEMPORARY DOCUMENTARIES UNDERWAY

LAST STAND AT NYMBOIDA is a contemporary one hour mining documentary being produced by Diane Michael and Kerry Herman via their Hunter based production company Red Cedar Productions.

This unique and extraordinary story begins in February 1975 when a group of underground mineworkers at the remote Nymboida colliery near Grafton were handed their notice after their employer declared bankruptcy.

These determined 30 mineworkers refused to accept the sack and the loss of their entitlements and began a work-in. Following negotiations between the Union, the Company and the NSW Government, the Union took over the mine and ran it profitably for more than four years. Local woman Phyllis Atherton became the first woman in the Australian coal industry to hold the position of Lodge Secretary.

After the mine's closure in 1979 a new chapter in Australian industrial history began when the Miners Union was granted a new lease to a modern Hunter Valley coal mine operated by United Collieries in Singleton. Profits from the tonnage went to the newly established Mine Workers Trust which has supported the men, their families and their communities.

The broadcast documentary, to be directed by Melbourne based Jeff Bird and shot by Sydney DOP Simon Smith, is due for completion in May 2010.

The Mineworkers Trust of Australia, which has previously supported documentaries including *Lockout* (www.lockout.tv) and *Beneath Black Skies* (www.beneathblackskies.com.au), was keen to see this unique episode of Australian Mining History told to a wider audience.
www.nymboidadoco.com.au

Red Cedar Productions is also developing a four part broadcast series ***Matters of Life & Death***.

This series will encourage people to view death as a normal and regularly occurring human experience and provide a stimulus for family, friends and colleagues to engage in comfortable thought and conversation about dying, death, grief and loss.

Australia and the world have an ageing population. With the "baby boomer" generation rapidly approaching the end of their life experience, there is an increasing focus in the media and in popular literature on issues around death.

Death and loss continue to be misunderstood and feared despite being the most universal and routine human experience of all. We no longer speak about the ordinariness of death, dying and loss. We are fascinated with death, as long as it remains the death of others.

Matters of Life & Death is currently in the process of being financed and is on the approved list of the Documentary Foundation of Australia.
www.mattersoflifeanddeath.tv

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For further information, photos or to arrange an interview about either project please contact Diane Michael or Kerry Herman at Red Cedar Productions on 0412 427 202 or (02) 4936 2795 or email info@redcedarproductions.com.au.