



**GOLD FIELDS**

# industrial

## VENDING SYSTEMS

## PPE vending reduces spend

It is essential that employees are able to easily access the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) that they require to work safely. However, good PPE is quite expensive and it's important that it is looked after and maintained properly.

During 2012, analysis was carried out on the St Ives PPE spend. It identified that the mine was spending approximately \$120,000 per month on PPE, equating to \$197 per employee per month. This seemed to be quite high, but it was not clear why it was that much or where the PPE was being used.

To address the problem, a PPE vending machine was trialled at Cave Rocks underground mine in February 2012. The vending machine collected information on what PPE was being used by people in the team over a month. This was presented back to the teams and they very quickly used the information to achieve a 40% improvement in their PPE spend. The trial also confirmed excellent machine reliability, outstanding supplier support and that the crews were able to obtain PPE more easily.

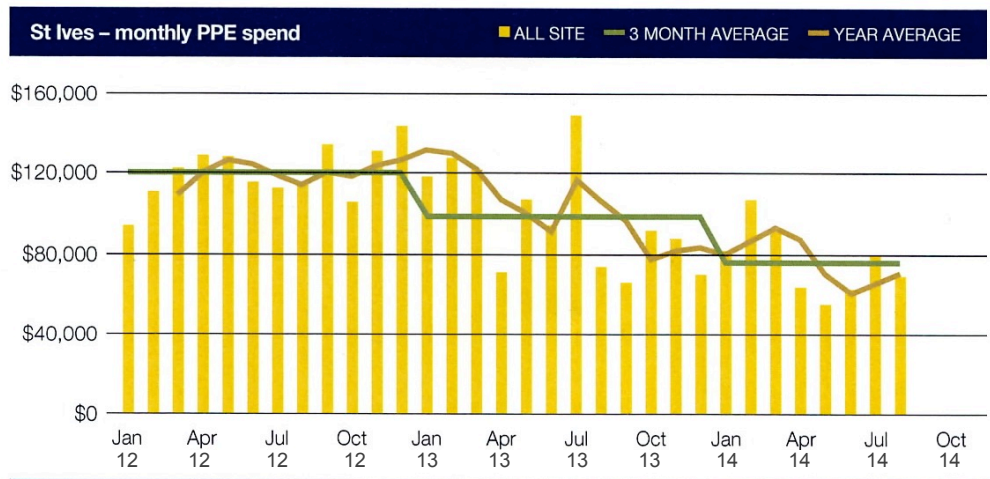
After the successful trial, machines were installed across the St Ives lease – at Athena, Hamlet and Argo

underground mines, in the Open pits production and maintenance, and at the Lefroy mill.

Teams now regularly receive information relating to their PPE usage and cost. Since the installation of the vending machines, the cost of PPE per employee reduced by 25% in 2013, and by 37% so far in 2014. This equates to \$43,000 per month or \$516,000 in savings per year.



Jennifer Haydon obtains PPE from the Open pits machine



Source: Gold Fields' Employee Magazine 'The Gold Vine' Q3 Jul-Sep 2014.