

NEW HOPE SEALS JONDARYAN TRUCK PARKING AREA

Truck parking areas on the verges of the Warrego Highway at Jondaryan have been sealed thanks to funding from the New Hope Group.

Jondaryan District Residents Association Chairman Bruce Arthur and New Acland's Rob Rashleigh were on hand when work started on the \$80,000 project to seal the parking areas on both sides of the highway.

"The township of Jondaryan is very pleased with the contribution New Hope has made to reducing the dust levels in the township," Mr Arthur said.

"The verges of the highway were not sealed and a lot of trucks and b-doubles stopped there for the drivers to go to the roadhouse

or the public toilets, and every time a truck pulled up there the town would get covered with a huge cloud of dust.

"Originally the mine's rail loading facility was getting blamed for a lot of the dust pollution in town but test results have shown that 35 to 50 per cent of the dust is mineral dust mostly from the Warrego Highway traffic.

"The Jondaryan District Residents Association originally approached the Main Roads Department about three years ago to seal the verges but they couldn't find the funds to do it.

"It has been an ongoing operation to try and get someone to fund it so thank goodness New Hope stepped in."



ABOVE: Bruce Arthur and Rob Rashleigh celebrate the road works.

WELCOME BOOST FOR COMMUNITY FACILITY



New kitchen facilities in the Oakey State School's multi-purpose hall are now available for local community groups and individuals to use.

Oakey State School Principal Dave Bosworth said the \$12,000 upgrade of the kitchen (thanks to a donation by New Hope) included catering equipment which will allow for a greater range of activities to be held in the hall.

"Our school will now be able to run functions, sporting events,

and conferences that meet not only the needs of our school, but will also allow our community to be part of school, business, educational and cultural experiences," he said.

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell, Community Liaison Officer Helen Braithwaite and Business Support Officer Jen Wilson took the opportunity to lend a hand and test out the new facilities at the school's concert recently.

Helen said the fact that this new facility is based at the school and available to be used by the wider community is a real bonus.

"At New Hope we aim to support projects and groups that can put something back into the community and we think this new kitchen project really fits that bill," she said.

LEFT: Oakey State School Principal Dave Bosworth and Jim Randell try out the school's new kitchen facilities.

OAKEY NURSING HOME GARDEN TAKES SHAPE

The new garden at the Dr EAF McDonald Nursing Home in Oakey is off to a great start with New Acland chipping in material and equipment, plus some muscle power from willing volunteers.

Oakey Health Service Director of Nursing, Matthew Boyd, said the working bee made for a successful start to the garden project.

"The majority of supplies and equipment were donated from the generosity of New Hope and local farmers," he said.

"The hard slog was made easier by the efforts of local Bobcat man, Tony Simmons, and a contractor that New Hope had provided."

RIGHT: New Hope employees at the working bee.



ABOUT 500 VISITORS ENJOYED THE WARM WEATHER AND ACTIVITIES AT NEW ACLAND'S 10-YEAR CELEBRATION DAY IN OCTOBER.

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NEW ACLAND TO VENEER COAL TRAIN WAGONS

The New Hope Group will start coating coal on trains from its New Acland mine with a special environmentally-friendly veneering solution to allay community concerns regarding dust.

New Hope's Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said the company had taken the step to veneer the coal despite independent testing consistently showing dust levels well below government requirements.

"We have listened to the community and we will begin veneering the coal as soon as possible," he said.

"Veneering is the process of applying a water-based solution to the surface layer of coal on each wagon as it passes underneath a spray bar.

"The solution dries to form a flexible 'crust' over the coal and physically prevents dust from being released from the wagons.

"Our coal already has a very high natural moisture content – especially when compared with coal from central Queensland – and this moisture level is further increased by washing during our production process.

"All New Acland coal is washed prior to transportation.

"Veneering will be a further proactive measure to guard against potential dust. This is another example of New Hope going above and beyond requirements to work together with the community."

Mr Denney said trials with a mobile applicator are expected to commence at the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility early next year.

"The veneering station would then move from Jondaryan to a remote new site on the mining lease as part of the mine's future planning, as New Hope has previously committed," he said.

BELOW: New Acland Community Reference Group members tour the operation.



COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP UNDER WAY

The New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG), which represents diverse sectors of the Darling Downs community, has held its first meeting.

Members gathered at the New Acland operations late last month and undertook a tour of the site, including the mine pit and rehabilitation areas.

New Hope Group Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said the company started the CRG as part of an ongoing process of engagement with the community.

"We are very pleased with the high calibre of the people who have joined this community reference group," he said.

"The group's twelve members come from a wide cross-section of community interests and they represent important sectors such as agriculture, education, business, landowners, infrastructure and health."

The group's independent facilitator is Professor Michael Cuthill, Chair of the Regional Community Development section of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development at the University of Southern Queensland.

Mr Denney said the CRG would be advisory in nature and the outcomes of the process would assist in informing planning and decision-making by the New Hope Group.

More information on the New Acland CRG is available on our website: www.newhopecoal.com.au

NEW ACLAND SHINES IN EMERGENCY COMPETITION

The impressive skills of the New Acland Emergency Response Team were on full show at the recent 2012 Queensland Open Cut Mines Rescue Service State Challenge.

The state titles were held at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy (QCESA) at Whyte Island at the Port of Brisbane in late September.

New Acland was the only team from South-East Queensland to compete in the challenge, with the other seven teams from Central Queensland.

The teams competed against each other, and the clock, in simulated rescue exercises which included a vertical ropes rescue, multi-casualty exercise, road crash rescue and an exercise involving the use of breathing apparatus.

"Of course, we all hope our team members don't ever have to use their special skills, but it is reassuring to know we have people at our site – and therefore living in the local communities around our site – with these lifesaving skills," New Acland General Manager Jim Randell said.

New Acland's team members for the competition were: Andrew Scouller (captain), Greg Briggs (vice-captain), Brett Jackwitz, Andy Koehler, Aaron Titmarsh, Stewart Millis and Lindsay Bidgood.

RIGHT: New Acland's Emergency Response Team in action.



NEW ACLAND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

About 500 visitors enjoyed the warm weather and activities at New Acland's 10-year celebration day recently.

Residents living near the mine, staff members and their families soaked up the sunshine and enjoyed the carnival atmosphere at New Acland.

Displays included a large mine haul truck and a wheel loader, rides and a jumping castle for the kids, various competitions, plus informative displays and site tours of the mine's operations and rehabilitation programs.

The CareFlight helicopter also delivered an early Christmas treat for the kids – Santa Claus!

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell said visitors were openly impressed.

"The 10-year celebration day was a great event in itself but it also helped folks to better understand all of the work we do here at New Acland," he said.

"While obviously the mining part of our operations is important, we also displayed some of the other great work our people do every day in areas like safety, maintenance,

business improvement plus environmental and pastoral projects just to name a few.

"We have 36 employees who have been at New Acland since day one and this is more than 10 per cent of our total staff numbers here," he said.

"The fact that such a large contingent of our people have been so committed to New Acland is a strong tribute to the type of workplace and teamwork that we have here."

ABOVE: New Acland celebrates.

WELCOME MOVE FOR JONDARYAN RESIDENTS

The first stage of plans to move the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility away from the town of Jondaryan has been announced by the New Hope Group.

The company is seeking approval to build a new half rail loop which would form part of the new line that would ultimately take the coal trains further away from Jondaryan.

"We have always said we will move the Jondaryan Rail Loading Facility onto the mine site about eight kilometres away from the town of Jondaryan when we had certainty about the future of the mine," New Hope's Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said.

"The cost of this major relocation project is in excess of \$62 million and like any

business big, small or otherwise, we can't spend that sort of money until we have certainty about the future.

"We have listened to the community and we understand their concerns – but I need to make the point that we do extensive testing at Jondaryan and we consistently meet strict legal requirements in relation to dust and noise.

"Nevertheless, we have committed to move the facility as soon as we get some certainty about the mine's future – and this is the first step in that process.

"If this interim proposal gets the go-ahead, Jondaryan residents will benefit from having the trains at least a kilometre further away from the town in the short-term."



HELEN TAKES A HEART AND A NEW NAME

The New Hope Group would like to congratulate Oakey-based Community Liaison Officer Helen Williams on her recent marriage to Toowoomba's Andy Braithwaite.

Helen and Andy celebrated their nuptials with family and friends in early October.

Helen not only took Andy's heart but also his name – so we thought it would be a good idea to introduce you to the new Mrs Helen Braithwaite!