



**NEW HOPE
GROUP**

**NEW ACLAND
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

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BEAKERS.BOTS.BUILD AT OAKLEY HIGH SCHOOL

SCIENCE HAS COME TO LIFE FOR OAKLEY STATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH PROGRAMS ORGANISED BY QUEENSLAND MINERALS AND ENERGY ACADEMY (QMEA). YEAR NINE STUDENTS WERE THE FIRST TO BENEFIT, FIRING UP THEIR BEAKERS FOR A CHEMICAL PROCESSING AND ROBOTICS WORKSHOP.

The Beakers.Bots.Build workshop guided students through three key challenges exploring chemical processing, robotics and construction activities.

The workshop was supported by two New Acland Mine staff who shared their personal career pathways into the resource industry.

New Acland's Site Senior Executive Dave O'Dwyer began his resource career as a mining engineer and said sparking student's interest in science could equip them well for future careers in Queensland's resource industry.

"Bringing the QMEA to Oakley State High School opens students up to all the different possibilities the resource industry can offer them," Dave said.

"Our industry has a really diverse workforce with roles like engineers and environmental scientists, through to core trades such as diesel-fitters and electricians.

"A lot of these professional and vocational career pathways are underpinned by high school study in science, technology, engineering and maths so it's really rewarding to bring QMEA back to Oakley State High School again this year."

As well as facilitating local students to access QMEA, New Hope also has a number of local trainees and apprentices working across its operations.

"Right now across our operations New Hope has four apprentices, nine trainees and one work experience student," Dave said

New Acland Community and Landholder Coordinator Grant Higgs also shared his resource industry journey, using his experience in rural banking and agriculture to work with landholders living near resource projects.

Next in line were the Year 10 students who got up close and personal with representatives from New Acland Mine who shared their passion for science,

technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Dave O'Dwyer joined Community Liaison Bec Meacham to share their career stories with students to inspire them to continue studying STEM subjects.

Students experienced hands-on science, undertaking a copper extraction experiment, learning about process engineering techniques and mine resource management. The visit coincided with the Year 10 students considering their subjects for senior study and future career pathways.

Oakley State High School's Jelena Edhouse Head of Department HPE, Mathematics and Science was appreciative of New Acland's support and welcomed the hands-on and engaging nature of the workshop.

"It really helped the students to see science in action and understand the practical application of their studies," Jelena said. "It's exciting to see all those light bulb moments occur while they are preparing for their future careers."

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COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

The *New Acland Community Investment Fund (CIF)* is part of New Hope Group's ongoing commitment to community investment and development. It supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with grants for projects over \$10,000 to support community-based initiatives.

LION'S DEN BECOMES USER FRIENDLY

Lion's Dens don't usually come with climate control but don't tell the Oakey Lion's Club that!

The club has been successful in obtaining a *Community Investment Fund* grant for \$17,500 to refurbish its current home, including the addition of reverse cycle air-conditioning.

For club president, Gail Jones it's all about making the venue more user friendly.

"Currently the shed we are in is very unpleasant in extreme weather conditions so it's difficult to encourage members and guests to come to functions," Gail said.

"It simply isn't an inviting environment and, with no reliable electrical appliances, it's also not that safe.

"What we want to establish is an attractive and safe environment so that we can increase our membership and, as a consequence, do more work to support the local community.

"With our refurbished den we will be able to maintain an active roster of volunteers to help with regular working bees.

"The support of New Hope and the fund is vital to us being able to provide a professional and positive service in the local area – in comfort."



Oakey Men's Shed members try out the new tools

OAKEY MEN'S SHED EXPANDS

THE POPULAR OAKEY MEN'S SHED HAS BEEN GIVEN ROOM TO GROW THANKS TO AN \$11,000 GRANT WHICH WENT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A 40-FOOT SHIPPING CONTAINER.

The group has a proud record of supporting the mental wellbeing of local men while also providing a valuable service to the broader community.

In fact the group is so successful they were running out of room according to treasurer John Phillips.

"Things were getting a bit cluttered around the shed, so we put in for a grant through New Hope to purchase a 40-foot shipping container," John said.

"Not only do we have more room for storage, we were also able to purchase some new tools and machinery to help us expand the range of projects we do.

"We have a large number of older men in the area who rely on the Men's Shed for companionship and a creative outlet.

"It's fantastic that New Hope are so supportive of what we do and can help us out financially through the *Community Investment Fund*."



CENTURY OLD HALL GETS A FACELIFT

BUILT IN 1893, THE GOOMBUNGEE PUBLIC HALL HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, HOSTING BALLS, WEDDINGS, WAKES, INDOOR SPORTING EVENTS AND PARTIES OF ALL TYPES.

In 1989 the Goombungee Public Hall committee became an incorporated body and have been making improvements to the hall, specifically around health and safety issues.

Recently the committee secured a grant from the *New Acland Community Investment Fund* to upgrade the kitchen area, replacing storage area

under the servery countertop with vermin proof draws and cupboards.

Committee secretary, Bernadette McPhail said the group is focused on providing a safe venue that everyone in the community can access and enjoy.

"The kitchen area required updating to ensure it was compliant with health and safety regulations," Bernadette said.

Bernadette said the committee has a proven record of maintaining and improving this important community asset.

"However, without the support of New Hope and this particular fund, many of these improvements simply wouldn't happen."



New trainee Jason Baker on site at Acland

TRAINEE COUNTING HIS LUCKY STARS

EVERY TIME 45-YEAR-OLD JASON BAKER CLIMBS THE LADDER TO THE CABIN OF HIS COAL DUMP TRUCK HE COUNTS HIS LUCKY STARS.

A Kingsthorpe local, Jason is one of seven locals selected by New Hope Group (NHG) to take on a traineeship program at the New Acland Mine.

Jason said he had all but given up hope of securing a position at the mine after having applied in the past.

“I got a taste of life on a mine site when I was in Mt Isa and I really enjoyed it,” Jason said.

“I also worked as a FIFO worker for four years in the oil and gas fields of South Australia, but I didn’t want to go back to that type of work.”

Jason said it was his mum who alerted him to the traineeship.

“I’d come back to live in Kingsthorpe as my family are all in the area so when the opportunity arose I decided to give it a shot,” Jason said.

“I just can’t believe I’ve finally got my foot in the door. While some might think I’m a little old to be starting a traineeship I see it as a second chance.

“Once I finish my Certificate II in Surface Extraction it’s only a small step to a Certificate III which is the same as a trade qualification.

“Admittedly it can be a little slow at times but there are so many options on a mine site to build a career once I finish my traineeship.”

NHG General Manager of Queensland Coal Operations, David Vink said there are a number of reasons why New Acland Mine is a great place to start a mining career.

“New Acland Mine is an important economic contributor to the local area and is recognised as an innovative and forward looking mine,” David said.

“We encourage our experienced team of miners to think creatively about issues they face daily and we are proud to have implemented a number of the innovations that have come from that.

“We also value training and offer our team the opportunity to continually learn new skills.

“This is only the second time we have run traineeships at New Acland and we think this group will replicate the success of the first.

“Obviously we’d like all the trainees to remain at NAC but where ever the trainees decide to go after the program ends, they will have the advantage of having worked on a mine site that is respected across the industry.”

KEY FACTS

New Hope Group recently commissioned an independent analysis of the economic and social benefits of the continuation of its New Acland mine known as Stage 3. A snapshot of the Ernst Young findings show the benefits over the projected 12 year life of the mine would:

- Provide \$7 billion in revenue to the Queensland economy;
- Create more than 550 jobs by the year 2020;
- Contribute an annual economic benefit to the state of \$575 million;
- Benefit NAC suppliers with more than \$2,500 million in potential earnings;
- Generate \$563.5m in potential revenue for construction contractors – many of whom will be locals during the construction phase;
- Earn QLD Rail and Road Transport companies more than \$1,600 million;
- Benefit local community groups (including schools) with more than \$6 million in direct funding; and
- Provide local private landholders (excluding New Hope related entities) with \$54.2 million in royalty payments.

www.aclandproject.com.au

EY New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project: Financial Impact Study

ACLAND STAGE 3 UPDATE

A three day Land Court remittal hearing for the New Acland Stage 3 Project concluded in the first week of October after hearing oral submissions from lay objectors, New Acland Coal, the Department of Environment and Science and the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA).

Further written submissions from all parties were accepted until 19 October.

The Land Court will now deliver its recommendation in respect to the Project in its own time. It is hoped this will occur before the Court's Christmas closure however this is not guaranteed.

Updates will be available on the New Hope Group website at newhopegroup.com.au/news and newhopegroup.com.au/content/investors/asx-announcements

LOCAL FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS

Local farmers suffering through the worst drought in 100 years now have access to support from a \$50,000 donation to a local charity.

New Hope Group made the \$50,000 donation to drought relief organisation Aussie Helpers to assist with much needed relief to drought-affected farmers on the Darling Downs.

Aussie Helpers Chief Financial Officer Sam Price was thrilled to receive the funds and said the money would be used to provide support in whatever form most needed by those in need in the area surrounding the New Acland mine.

"We've had quite a number of calls coming in from farmers in the Oakey region and the broader Darling Downs who are really doing it tough at the moment," Ms Price said.

"We've found farmers are in need of different things depending on their circumstances, whether it be hay, water or financial and emotional support or simply just putting food on the table."

New Hope Managing Director Shane Stephan said the company had watched with concern as drought conditions worsened across the state and in particular in farming communities around the New Acland Mine and Acland Pastoral Company.

"New Hope has been moved by the strength and resilience of farmers battling through this tough time, many of whom are employees at our New Acland Mine as well as members of our local communities," Mr Stephan said.

"As a major cattle and cropping operator and large local employer in the Oakey region, we knew there were families doing it tough and wanted to do our bit.

"This donation will provide relief to the farmers in our area who need it most, and our hope is that it will ease their burden a little."

If you'd like support from the drought relief effort, you can visit the Aussie Helpers website at aussiehelpers.org.au or call them on **1300 665 232**.

MAJOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR OAKEY AREA

Local collaboration on the delivery of a major *Community Development Project* has been the impetus of a series of workshops conducted across the local area.

Designed to develop ideas from local communities themselves on how and what project can best serve their local area, the workshops were facilitated by USQ Professor Jim Cavaye, an expert in community engagement and regional development, along with the *New Acland Community Reference Group*, and the University of Southern Queensland's Institute

for Resilient Regions. The workshops were held in Kulpi, Maclagan, Goombungee and Oakey.

Input from the four workshops is now being collated to inform the broader *Community Development Project* which is set to be revealed by Christmas.

Community members are encouraged to continue to contribute their thoughts with the *New Acland Community Reference Group* and the *Institute for Resilient Regions* on the Project by contacting Community Liaison Bec Meacham on **0418 534 575**.

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New Hope has prepared this newsletter to keep the community informed about the New Acland mine operations and initiatives.

