

SNAKE SKIN A SAFETY REMINDER

Everyone at the New Acland Coal Mine recently got a rather large reminder that we are still in the height of 'snake season'.

At the beginning of all meetings at New Acland, employees are invited to give a safety share in which everyone stops to share information about a safety related issue.

The skin from a very large eastern brown snake was recently presented as a safety share to remind all employees to be aware of snake activity around the mine and the surrounding areas.

New Acland Supervisor Russell Coleman found the skin at his house, which is in a community not too far from the mine.

"I discovered it at the base of my back steps of my house and I had just finished night shift," he said.

"The skin was still wet as it had just been shed. I haven't seen this snake before then or since.

"Needless to say I'm a bit more vigilant around the yard and sheds these days.

"I don't have a problem with snakes as a rule, but to have a venomous species like this and particularly of this size makes a person a bit more aware of their surroundings.

"I had not heard of a brown snake of this proportion before, but I have seen a number of six foot specimens in my time and they were impressive enough.

"I would like to see this one in the flesh as well - but on the other hand, I don't."

FIRST AID FOR SNAKE BITES:

Do NOT wash the area of the bite or try to suck out the venom. It is extremely important to retain traces of venom for use with venom identification kits.

Do NOT incise or cut the bite, or apply a high tourniquet. Cutting or incising the bite won't help. High tourniquets are ineffective and can be fatal if released.

Stop lymphatic spread - bandage firmly, splint and immobilise. The "pressure-immobilisation" technique is currently recommended by the Australian Resuscitation Council, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.



**NEW HOPE
GROUP**

NEW ACLAND COMMUNITY UPDATE

March 2015



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT

WORK IS PROGRESSING ON THE NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 PROJECT, FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FROM THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT.

New Hope's Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said the front-end engineering design (FEED) stage of the project had been completed in late 2014.

"New Hope's board have now given us approval to move into the next stage of work through 2015 which includes the detail design work, contract tenders and early works," he said.

"Once that is complete and a mining lease has been granted, we will then go back to the board to seek approval for the final project construction."

New Hope's General Manager Projects Gerald Randell said activities on the New Acland Stage 3 Project were already ramping up.

"Telstra have been relocating some of their underground services in preparation for the construction works," he said.

"Detailed cultural heritage, fauna and flora surveys of the proposed disturbance areas are being coordinated which will ensure that any potential impacts on culturally significant items and protected or endangered species are managed.

"Testing is being carried out on some of the basalt material from the mine. If the basalt is acceptable for use in the construction there could be a significant reduction in the number of haulage kilometres required."

Upcoming activities include on-site geotechnical investigations which will involve some core drilling and test pits to confirm the underlying nature of the ground conditions.

"Once that is complete and a mining lease has been granted, we will then go back to the board to seek approval for the final project construction."

Mr Randell said the first major construction contracts for the New Acland Stage 3 Project were expected to be awarded in 2016.

"New Hope is committed to providing opportunities for local businesses to share in the success of the Project," he said.

JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

THE NEW ACLAND COAL MINE HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE DARLING DOWNS REGION AS AN ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTOR SINCE IT BEGAN OPERATIONS IN 2002.

The operation currently employs more than 300 local people directly, and provides a further 160 full-time contractor jobs, plus thousands more indirect jobs.

New Hope's Managing Director Shane Stephan said the majority of New Acland employees lived locally and spent their wages in their local communities.

"The approval of the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project by the Queensland Government is a significant step in an ongoing approvals process which will continue until a mining lease is formally granted," he said.

"Stage 3 of the New Acland Project will provide a further boost of \$12 billion to the local, state and national economies over the life of the mine.

"It will also boost full-time local jobs to about 435, increasing full-time contractors to 170 positions, and indirect jobs by more than 1,500.

"The revised Project will also directly employ up to another 260 people during the peak construction phase.

"New Hope intends to source new employees, where possible, from the local region.

"As we progress through the approvals process, information regarding Project employment opportunities will be available at www.newhopegroup.com.au and through the New Hope Community Information Centre."

MACLAGAN HALL PRESERVED FOR THE FUTURE

The Maclagan Memorial Hall will continue to play an important role in the local community for years to come thanks to support from the New Hope Group.

New Hope provided funding through the New Acland Community Investment Fund which enabled the Maclagan Memorial Hall Association to undertake much-needed maintenance work at the Hall.

"The hall is used by so many community groups; there's also the annual Maclagan Old Time Squeezebox Festival which brings around 300 people to town from around Queensland," Cheryl Peters from the Maclagan Memorial Hall Association said.

"The donation from New Hope has helped us fix the roof and also paint the building's exterior.

"There's no way in the world we could have done that without support from New Hope. It will continue to preserve the community hall for future generations."

New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said the company was proud to assist community groups like the Maclagan Memorial Hall Association.

"The Maclagan Memorial Hall plays such an important role in the community and it is vital that these facilities are well-maintained and safe for community groups to use," he said.



New Hope's Naomi Tonscheck celebrates with Maclagan Memorial Hall Association members Jeff Ballon, Trevor Ambrose and Cheryl Peters.

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



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TOURS OF NEW ACLAND

New Acland's public site visits for local residents started again this month after taking a break during the hotter summer months.

The tours offer visitors a close-up look at our mining, land rehabilitation and agricultural operations.

All site visits are subject to favourable weather conditions and visitors are required to wear long-sleeved shirts, long trousers and closed-in, flat-bottomed footwear.

Due to legislated safety requirements, children under 12 years of age are not permitted to attend.

Details and dates for upcoming tours will be advertised in local newspapers. To book, please phone 4694 8801 or visit the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.



NEW ACLAND FAST FACT

Under New Hope's revised Project, the Acland town area, including the Tom Doherty Park, the War Memorial and the Acland No 2 Colliery, would be left in place.

Permanent access and utility services to Acland will be maintained over the life of the revised Project.



Acland Pastoral Company's Chloe Gordon, Ben Muirhead and Lachlan Brown.

LOCAL TRAINEE JOINS ACLAND PASTORAL COMPANY

The Acland Pastoral Company (APC) has welcomed a new school-based trainee, Lachlan Brown.

Lachlan, who is in year 11 at Oakey State High School, spends two days a week at APC as part of his studies.

"School announced the traineeship on assembly, and I'm interested in the work they do at APC so I thought I'd give it a go," he said.

"I've been doing cattle work, and also been in the tractor slashing. It's the kind of work I would like to do in the future.

"It's great being at APC because I live only ten minutes down the road at Kulpi."

Acland Pastoral Company Manager Ben Muirhead said the traineeship gave young local people an opportunity to learn more about the agricultural industry.

"The traineeship is a great way to get young people involved in the agricultural industry," he said.

"Because we are a larger scale operation at APC, we can give them exposure to a whole range of different things and they can develop skills like handling large mobs of cattle and crop management."

"It's another avenue of employment for young local people in this area, and a continuation of this successful program which has been running since 2013."

In addition to the APC school-based traineeship, New Hope offers a number of trainee, apprentice, graduate and vacation work positions. To find out more, visit www.newhopegroup.com.au.

REVISED PROJECT TIMELINE

Activity	Anticipated Timeframe
Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) advertised for public comment	January 2013
Environmental Impact Statement ToR approved	March 2013
Environmental Impact Statement submitted	December 2013
Environmental Impact Statement public comment period	February 2014
Additional Environmental Impact Statement public comment period	September 2014
Coordinator-General's report and approval	December 2014
Federal Government approval decision	In progress
Construction (if approved)	Between 2016 and 2017

RESOURCES SECTOR CONTRIBUTES BILLIONS TO THE REGION



Queensland Resources Council figures show that during 2013-14, the resources sector contributed \$2.5 billion to the Toowoomba Regional Council area.

This figure consists of direct contributions such as wages, community contributions and purchases of goods and services from local businesses, plus flow-on contributions such as spending by the sector which supports additional employment and Gross Regional Product (GRP).

The \$2.5 billion comprises 27% of the total Toowoomba GRP and the 12,667 full-time direct and indirect employees in the resources sector make up 17% of total employment in the TRC area.

The sector also generated \$30 million in royalties for the region for 2013-14 which are spent on schools, roads and hospitals to benefit all local residents.

Please visit the QRC website at www.qrc.org.au/economiccontribution for more details.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE OPENING HOURS

New Hope's Community Information Centre is the place to go for anyone interested in finding out about the New Acland Coal Mine and the revised New Acland Stage 3 Project.

The Centre is open on Mondays from 9am to 5pm, Tuesdays from 9am to 1pm, Wednesdays from 1pm to 5pm, Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm and closed on Fridays.

The Centre is staffed by Senior Community Advisor Helen Braithwaite and Community Liaison Officer Naomi Tonscheck.

If you are unable to visit the centre during these hours, we are happy to organise an alternative time to meet or speak with you.

The Centre also features a range of interesting displays, so why not bring the kids in to see the dinosaur print and fossils during the school holidays.



New Hope's Naomi Tonscheck with visitors in the New Hope Community Information Centre.

NEW HOPE SUPPORTS CWA HOUSE

A DONATION FROM THE NEW HOPE GROUP IS HELPING LOCAL RESIDENTS AT THE CWA HOUSE IN OAKEY.

New Hope elected to donate \$5,000 to CWA House in lieu of the usual corporate gifts to each attendee at a company event last year.

CWA House Chairman Lois Speed said the donation would assist in purchasing equipment to support the facility's 40 residents.

"We are so appreciative of this donation, it's a great community demonstration from New Hope," she said.

"We'll now be able to purchase a Regency Chair, which is a special adjustable chair which cushions the entire body and will enable a resident who would otherwise be bedbound to socialise and join in with the others.

"We've also bought a shower chair for residents, and other equipment that assists with their care.

"I would like to acknowledge the wonderfully supportive staff at CWA House, and the fantastic local volunteers who drop in to assist our residents.

"New Hope elected to donate \$5,000 to CWA House"

"We are creating a model of care at CWA House of 'looking after your own', which is what New Hope is also doing through their support of CWA House."

New Acland Mine General Manager Andrew McDonald said the donation in lieu of gifts was another way of supporting the local Oakey community.

"The CWA House in Oakey plays a significant role in the local community, enabling aged persons who may require assistance to continue to live locally," he said.

"New Hope is always looking for ways to support the communities in which we work and live, and support projects and facilities which assist local residents."