

## Minutes of meeting

### New Acland Community Reference Group

CRG meeting number: 2/2015

Date:	2 February 2015
Time:	5.30pm
Location:	Oakey State High School
Attendees:	Chairperson – Graham Cooke Barry Mason, Lindsay Evans, Glenys Bowtell, Matthew Boyd, Kathy Hartley, Helen Bawden, Nancy Sommerfield, Tracey Tulley
New Hope Group Representatives:	Jim Randell – Executive General Manager Mining Jennifer Wilson – Secretariat Helen Braithwaite – Senior Community Advisor
Apologies	Andrew Langton, Jodie Collins, Victoria Menkins
Visitors	

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**Agenda item      Discussion**

Welcome	Graham Cooke welcomed everyone
	Introductions from all members and the groups represented. Congratulations to Graham Cooke being awarded Citizen of the Year for the Oakey District.
Previous Minutes	The minutes of the previous meeting, presented and reviewed. Moved – Helen Bawden. Seconded - Lindsay Evans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Breakfast at Acland Hall and CIF presentation morning were successful.</li> </ul>
Safety Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reminder to wear protective clothing when being involved in activities even when not out in the field.</li> <li>▪ Snakes out with the hotter weather. Large snake skin found on employee's top step &gt; 3m in length.</li> </ul>

Community Group Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jondaryan Community emergency services have had a quiet summer and good rain received in the area. Local Subgroup meeting this week and will have an update on flood monitoring.</li> <li>▪ Jondaryan Irrigators appreciated the cooperation from NHG to take up quota to allow for installation of a new gauging station.</li> <li>▪ Australia Day Committee held a successful day at Oakey Creek. Thank you NHG for grant to allow for prizes. Prize proceeds from the raft race will be presented to Bowenville School and other community groups by the winning entries.</li> <li>▪ Oakey Lions conducting a Youth of the Year in 2015 and will have approximately 8 contestants.</li> <li>▪ Oakey Community Care will run first meeting this week. The group are assisting to organise the Flexi Schools at the CWA rooms after hosting a forum in relation to the use of the CWA rooms. The school days have been organised to allow all groups to have access.</li> <li>▪ Oakey State High School have finalised all the contracts relating to the Flexi School at the CWA rooms. There are 11 students attending in Year 10 with good results in attendance and achievement of the students for the start of the year. Male and female teachers cover a rigorous school program. Oakey State High School have a good partnership with Skilling Australia and are looking for other partnerships within the community. The focus is on educating with resilience in the real world. Opportunities for a community celebration participating in a 40km run to fundraise to air condition the whole school. The ' True Grit' race details will be communicated once finalised.</li> <li>▪ Oakey State High School have 500 students registered for the start of the year. Two students have won \$50,000 scholarship for dual degree. 50% of the senior students in 2014 received an OP score between 1-7.</li> <li>▪ The Oakey State High School students are looking for community projects and currently are having hairdressing taught by Engineering Hair which covers a Certificate IV in Beauty.</li> <li>▪ This is the first year to have Year 7 started at the High School. Formal school uniform will be worn two days a week by all students. The School Assembly routine has been reviewed. More of the Teachers are on permanent staff for 2015.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oakey Hospital Ebola preparedness has been stood down. The Hospital will continue with the garden and will finalise BBQ and pergola area this year. A dedicated Palliative care room is planned for this year with fundraising to begin soon.</li> <li>▪ Neighbours comment that the new Wirtgen surface miner appears to be quieter and “consistent” noise with positive results for overall impact.</li> <li>▪ It has been reported that an ex-Acland resident was disappointed to hear a broadcaster report that farmers were pushed out, which was not the case. Nearby farmers find it difficult to expand due to APC holding the surrounding areas.</li> <li>▪ Landcare have been spraying mother of millions which is now completed with the assistance of a grant from NHG.</li> <li>▪ North East Downs Landcare will have celebrations this year and have organised a number workshops for the year.</li> <li>▪ South Myall Landcare received a grant to improve biodiversity however due to government in caretaker mode are having to wait for the money.</li> <li>▪ Landholders that have water bores that potentially could be impacted due to the mine are able to enter into a “make good” agreement with the NHG. There are also protections under the Water Act. Monitoring bores around the mine can give an indication of the source of any impact. Discussion with affected landholders to install monitoring bores has been ongoing. If landholders want to discuss monitoring or concerns relating to impacts NAC would be happy to discuss. NHG have conducted baseline surveys to give an indication for future reference and have historical data available to form a model. New Acland mine currently has very little inflow into the pit from any underground aquifer.</li> <li>▪ Goombungee Australia Day not well attended however received good coverage from the local papers. New Year was celebrated in the Goombungee Hall after being lined from grant money received from the Community Investment Fund.</li> <li>▪ Toowoomba Regional council received a report of box thorn on Balgowan. Spraying has been organised by Acland Pastoral. Toowoomba Regional Council are conducting mapping of all areas for weed control. APC will advise TRC of the spraying work done on boxthorn to include in the mapping.</li> <li>▪ There have been Reports on Facebook for the area that has negative tones.</li> </ul>
New Acland update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NAC has received the Co Ordinator General’s report in relation to the Stage 3 EIS and expects approval from the Federal Environment Minister in the next few weeks. Telstra exchange on Acland Silverleigh Road is being relocated by Telstra.</li> <li>▪ Coal price continue to drop fortunately \$A also dropped although not quick enough to counter the impact of price falls.</li> <li>▪ New Acland has purchased a replacement second-hand EX3600 digger which is being commissioned over next few weeks.</li> <li>▪ Wirtgen trial will continue for a couple more months.</li> <li>▪ New Acland Enterprise Agreement vote was held in early January and was not accepted.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project General Manager for Stage III has been appointed, Gerald Randell.</li> <li>▪ New Hope group have purchased the Cockatoo shareholding of number coal properties around Wandoan. While the current coal industry is under pressure this indicates the long term commitment of New Hope to the industry and the economy of the Surat area.</li> <li>▪ Planting trees in Lagoon Creek with the trees that were propagated by the Oakey State High school</li> <li>▪ Acland Pastoral has a School based trainee starting tomorrow.</li> <li>▪ Reviewing cattle operation within Acland pastoral.</li> <li>▪ Bamboo planted at JRLF is doing well with recent rain.</li> <li>▪ Progressing the church being moved to Jondaryan Woolshed.</li> </ul>
Community Investment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary circulated on grants given from all three rounds.</li> <li>▪ Update on status of previous rounds will be presented next meeting. Summary from reports.</li> </ul>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monday appears to be the most convenient day to continue meetings.</li> <li>▪ Monday 2 March 2015 – 5.30pm at the Oakey State High School.</li> </ul>