



KOALAS CONTINUE TO THRIVE AROUND MINE

KOALA POPULATIONS IN THE AREA OF NEW ACLAND MINE HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES ACCORDING TO RESULTS OF AN INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC STUDY.

The Koala Research Project was conducted by the University of Queensland in conjunction with the Queensland Trust for Nature and with the support of New Hope Group.

Over a 12-month period, the research focused on the koala population situated around the mine site using GPS tracking collars to follow the koalas as they moved around the local area.

After initial tagging, the research group visited the site regularly to monitor the movement and health of the population and understand how they were using the landscape.

On their last visit the researchers retrieved the radio collars from the koalas at New Acland and conducted a final survey on the control site.

In general, the results found all koalas to be in good condition, with several young raised on the New Acland site during the study period.

One female, Nelly had been first captured with a joey in her pouch. On the final visit, she was found close to her original capture location and a review of her tracking data showed she remained close to and used a particular stand of trees along Lagoon Creek, very close to mining operations.

With Nelly was her baby, Rosa, now around 12 months old and sticking close to mum.

Another young mum, Jemima, received an added benefit from the program with researchers temporarily removing her from site during the study to treat an eye infection common to koalas. Testing positive for *Chlamydia*, but with only mild disease signs, she was treated and returned to site once healthy again.

Despite her infection, Jemima was carrying a young unfurred joey in her pouch at first capture.

The follow-up monitoring of Jemima throughout the study revealed she successfully raised her joey, returning to use her home range after treatment.

Overall, the research built on long term data which showed the population, while relatively small, was stable.

General manager of Coal Operations at New Hope, David Vink said the company

was keen to provide financial and logistical support to the research team.

“It is important to us that we understand what effect our operations have on the environment and the native wildlife,” David said.

“The interesting thing about this research was that it provided information about koalas’ health and activities close to the mine.

“We found they are quite active in their own small territories and that they live in a habitat that is quite close to our operations.

“I think it is testament to the amount of work New Acland puts into its rehabilitation and conservation work that native species like koalas are at the mine.”



Jemima with her joey

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Goombungee Little Folks proudly show off their veggie patch

GOOMBUNGEE GOES GREEN

GOOMBUNGEE LITTLE FOLKS GROUP HAVE TAKEN A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS THEIR QUEST TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE THANKS TO A SURPRISE \$2,300 SPONSORSHIP FROM NEW HOPE GROUP.

The group applied to NHG for assistance in supporting a fundraising event aimed at raising enough to purchase a further rain water tank for the kindy.

To ensure the group maintained their march towards a sustainable future, NHG decided to provide the group with enough funds to purchase a tank outright.

Little Folks Group director, Kylie Ferguson said the funds were a surprise but very welcome.

“We had hoped for assistance in funding an event,” Kylie said.

“When we were told New Hope wanted to fund the purchase of the tank we were beside ourselves.

“This will be our third water tank at the kindy and is much needed as we run off purely tank water.

“We are teaching the children about sustainability at kindy so we grow our own fruit and veggies and have a couple of chickens.

“The kids collect the eggs and water and pick the crops. We also cook and eat what we grow so the children get to see the whole process.

“The kids get such a kick out of seeing their veggies come out of the ground and picking the fruit from our orchard.”

Kylie said they only had a small group of children so it was difficult to raise funds.

“Our families are terrific and put a lot of time and effort into supporting the kindy,” Kylie said.

“But when it comes to fundraising you can’t keep dipping into the same well.

“For New Hope to support us in our efforts to become more environmentally sustainable is fantastic and we really can’t thank them enough.”

LEGENDS LAND IN OAKEY

The Legends of League rolled into Oakey recently for a series of events including the annual match against the Oakey Bears.

While in town the former NRL legends spent time with local youngsters to raise awareness of bullying and the positive effects of sport on their development.

Across the four days of the event, supported by the New Acland Community Investment Fund, a number of talks and clinics were held with local schools and other groups focused on mental health and healthy lifestyles.

Groups involved in the Legends of League event included the Oakey junior and senior rugby league clubs, the Oakey Lions, Oakey, St Monica, Jondaryn, Goombungee, Peranga and Quinalow state schools, Oakey and Quinalow high schools and members of the local indigenous community.



The Locals & the Legends line up at the official dinner



NAC JOINS IN ON WORKING VISIT TO GARDENS

Since the Friends of McDonald Nursing Home Gardens opened in 2013, New Acland Mine employees have consistently given a helping hand to local volunteer gardeners like George Lipman when they’ve needed help maintaining or expanding the gardens.

Recently employee’s from the Mine joined volunteers from Toowoomba North Rotary Club in a working-visit to the gardens, where they were able to make the best of a beautiful, sunny day.

Greg King (New Acland Coal) (left) & Bert Vliestra (Toowoomba North Rotary) spend some time on the gardens at McDonald Nursing Home



NAC Mine Rescue team in action at this year's rescue challenge event

BACK-TO-BACK TITLES **FOR NAC**

DESPITE TRYING CONDITIONS, THE NEW ACLAND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CLEANED UP ONCE AGAIN IN THE SOUTHERN REGION MINES RESCUE CHALLENGE WITH BACK-TO-BACK TITLES.

The New Acland Coal (NAC) team was this year captained by operator Joe Littleton who said the team performed well in the less than ideal conditions.

"The challenge puts teams through a series of real-life rescue simulations including road crashes, firefighting, search and rescue and multi casualty scenarios," Joe said.

"While the weather conditions were difficult it just added to the realism of the event, after all, not all emergencies are going to occur on bright sunny days. It was a real honour to be selected to lead them."

Joe, who also took out the title of Best Captain, has a strong connection to the Downs dating back to the 1800's when the Littleton family established Crow's Nest township in 1875.

"The family were the first to run cattle in the area and, more than a century later the family is still out there," Joe said.

"Although I moved to Toowoomba when I was 17, I still enjoy getting back to Crow's Nest and spending time with the family."

Joe spent 13 years in the Army after finishing school and did tours to Afghanistan and East Timor before joining New Hope.

"When I came out of the army I wanted to do more training so I did the Certificate III in Mine Rescue and have trained as a peer support officer," Joe said.

"I became a member of the Emergency Response Team.

"It's a role I take very seriously because there are all types of hazards in the mining industry and not all of them are physical.

"We are doing a lot more in the area of mental health these days, breaking down

the stigma and making the team understand its ok not to be ok.

"It's hard because miners are traditionally a tough bunch who don't like to talk about feelings. But I think it helps that they can come to someone like me, a fellow workmate, and just talk things over without feeling embarrassed."

Joe said his training had also come in handy outside of the workplace.

"Recently I came across a traffic accident at a round-a-bout in Toowoomba and the training just kicked in," Joe said.

"Fortunately it wasn't too serious but I was able to keep everyone calm, assess any injuries and provide basic first aid until the emergency services arrived.

"It really makes all the training worthwhile when you get to use it in real life situations."

The winning NAC team at the Mine Rescue Challenge were: Joe Littleton (captain), Andrew Koehler, Trevor Anderson, Andrew Barnes (winner of the New Acland Trophy – team member who best displayed New Hope's Core Values), Peter Handley and Phil Garratt.

PROMISING OUTCOME FROM LAND COURT

The Queensland Land Court recently handed down its recommendation in respect of the New Acland Mine stage 3 mining lease and environmental authority amendment applications.

The Land Court has recommended that the mining leases and environmental authority amendment be granted subject to the Coordinator-General first amending the noise limit conditions.

Managing Director Shane Stephan said the land court decision provides hope for all of those dependent on the mine.

“This is a promising result for New Hope Group, our employees and their families, stakeholders and the local community,” Mr Stephan said.

“There are still a number of further steps required in order to obtain final project approval.

“We will be working closely with the relevant Queensland Government departments in order to achieve these approvals.

“Obtaining these approvals in a timely manner is critical to ensuring the continuity of operations and therefore employment at New Acland.”

We will provide further updates as more information becomes available. To stay up-to-date visit our website at aclandproject.com.au

ARE YOU SUICIDE AWARE?

Suicide is all too prevalent in our farming communities but it has long been a taboo subject, especially for men. New Acland Coal Health and Safety Committee is getting behind Lifeline Darling Downs to help fund its safeTALK: suicide alertness program that aims to help participants recognise a person with thoughts of suicide.

To raise funds for the program, the committee ran the 2018 Men’s Health Raffle throughout November, with all funds going directly to Lifeline Darling Downs.

Sausage Sizzles were also run each Thursday on site, again with all money raised going to the charity. While the final amount raised hasn’t been tallied, the committee is hoping to top last year’s total of more than \$14,000. If you or someone you know needs help call Lifeline on **13 11 14** 24 hours a day.



Tending the herd on rehabilitated land

NEW ACLAND REHABILITATION CERTIFIED

New Hope’s industry leading environmental credentials have been formally ratified through Queensland Government certification of 349 hectares of progressively rehabilitated mined land at its New Acland coal mine operations.

Managing Director Shane Stephan said this is the largest single area of certified rehabilitation for an open cut coal mine in the State.

“To put the size of the area in context, this certification covers an area of around 300 Suncorp Stadiums,” Mr Stephan said.

“And the majority of it already has cattle grazing on it – right up against mining operations.”

New Acland mine’s methods are ahead of the curve when it comes to mine rehabilitation with the Queensland State Government recently introducing

new legislation to force resource companies to ‘clean up as they go’.

Mr Stephan said this has been standard practice at the New Acland Mine.

“Apart from being the right thing to do as custodians of the land – it also makes good business sense to rehabilitate to this high standard and have economically viable productive land as soon as possible behind mining operations,” Mr Stephan said.

“This is a clear and practical demonstration of the successful co-existence of mining and agriculture.

“I congratulate our environmental and operational teams on site for their dedication and continued demonstration of the high standards they set in the progressive rehabilitation of mined land at our Acland operations.”

Merry Christmas
to all

As we reflect on the past 12 months please spare a thought for those in our community less fortunate than ourselves and consider how you may be able to lend a hand.

All of us here at New Acland, and the wider New Hope community, wish each and every one of you a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

CONTACT

- ▶ Call 07 4691 3445
- ▶ New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell St, Oakey
- ▶ community@newhopegroup.com.au
- ▶ www.aclandproject.com.au
- ▶ PO Box 47, Ipswich, Qld 4305

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

