



## NEW ACLAND HONOURS LOYAL STAFF

Stories were shared and memories relived as a group of New Acland mine staff were inducted into New Hope's 25 Year Club at a celebration dinner in Toowoomba.

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell congratulated the six New Acland inductees for their long and valuable service and commitment to New Hope.

"Together these six men have contributed a total of 174 years of service to New Hope and that is a remarkable achievement," he said.

New Hope's longest-serving employee, Kevin Nothdurft, a heavy machinery operator at

New Acland, said the variety of work on offer at New Hope, along with the teamwork and camaraderie, were major factors that had kept him with the company.

"When I started in March 1978 I didn't think I would be here this long, but that just goes to show what a good company New Hope is to work for and how much we all enjoy what we are doing," Kevin said.

Mining supervisor David Wood recalled that driving the big trucks in the early days was a bit different to life in today's sophisticated machines.

"I remember there were no windows in the trucks, so we used to hang up a hessian sack and keep it wet with a bucket of water and that was our air conditioner!" he said.

Employees who have 25 years of continuous service with a New Hope Group company will be recognised each year at the annual event. Future events may also look at recognising those employees who have 25 years of service to New Hope but may have been engaged by other related parties for parts of their service.

**ABOVE:** New Acland's 25 Year Club members and partners at their recent celebration dinner.



## 'MAGICIAN' DAZZLES OAKEY STUDENTS

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell brought a little magic when he visited Oakey State School students recently.

Principal Dave Bosworth said the visit from New Hope Acland mine staff for grade four students was very informative and entertaining. "The children learnt about coal mining from when coal is taken from the

ground, how it is processed and then transported to its destination," he said.

"Jim the manager from the mine explained the process using diagrams and photos. His demonstration of separating the coal from the rock amazed the children, some thinking he was a magician!" The presentation also included information

about water recycling at New Acland, land rejuvenation and environmental management, the large equipment used on site, and how the mine contributes to the local community through providing jobs, spending money and supporting community groups.

**LEFT:** New Acland General Manager Jim Randell turns 'magician' at Oakey State School.



## CATTLE TRIALS SHOW PROMISE

Rehabilitated mining land may be as productive as land that has not been mined, according to initial results from scientific cattle grazing trials underway at New Acland.

Independent livestock consultancy Outcross, which is conducting the trial in association with the University of New England, said while it was early days in the study, the results were promising.

Acland Pastoral Company Manager Ben Muirhead said the first results indicated that the rehabilitated land was actually more productive than the non-mined land in terms of pasture quality.

"The initial results were a bit surprising, so more work needs to be done, but it does

strongly support the potential for mined land to be rehabilitated to a commercial level of productivity," he said.

"The trial involves grazing two mobs of cattle - one on the rehabilitated mining land and a second mob on a non-mined paddock comparable in feed quantity and quality."

"The monitoring program has been developed with Outcross and the university to capture key indicators including cattle weight gain, animal health, and pasture quality before and after grazing."

The previously mined area being used in the study was rehabilitated in 2004 and Rhodes grass dominated the pastures on both sites.

The Acland Pastoral Company was started by New Hope more than half a decade ago and is continually developing land for agricultural purposes, on current and future mining lease areas.

"The vast majority of the mining lease area is used for purposes other than active mining at any one time," Ben said.

"At the moment, we have about 2,000 head of cattle in total grazing on about 4,000 hectares of land, with a further 4,000 hectares available for cultivation."

"The cultivated areas are used for cropping, forage production and a portion is fallowed."

**ABOVE:** Scientific cattle grazing trials are showing promise.

## HEALTHY BOOST FOR LOCAL ECONOMY



Latest economic figures show New Acland contributes more than \$110 million directly into the local economy each year.

As a substantial and loyal supporter of local businesses, contractors and suppliers, New Hope is a major stimulator of the Darling Downs economy.

New Hope actively encourages the use of local products and local people wherever possible and the mine has no fly-in, fly-out employees.

Nearly a thousand contractors have been inducted to work at New Acland, and in any one month up to 300 contractors

work part-time at our site. New Acland creates thousands more jobs in our local communities through these suppliers and contractors and the economic flow-on benefits are significant and growing.

**LEFT:** New Acland pumps millions into local economy.



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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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ABOVE: New Hope's Helen Williams (left) joins Biddeston State School sports captains Gemma Beckman, Courtney Allan, Ben Mann, Callum Namour.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE WELCOMES LOCALS

**New Hope would like to thank the hundreds of residents, business people and representatives of local organisations who have visited the new Community Information Centre in Oakey.**

Community Liaison Officer Helen Williams has been kept busy since the centre opened its doors to the public earlier this year, answering questions about employment opportunities in particular.

"We have had many enquiries from people keen to join the New Hope team and begin a career in the resources sector," Helen said.

"Locals have also been very interested in New Hope's sponsorship and donation program and about mining in general."

"The model of a dinosaur footprint that we have in the Centre has been a big hit with children and it's been great to see so many folk just popping in to say hello and talk about the future of our operations."

As well as holding down the fort in the Information Office, Helen is also out and about attending community group meetings and you'll probably see her around the district at functions and events.

## NEW HOPE COVERS EVENTS

Community groups in the local area now have access to a large marquee for functions and events at no cost.

New Hope is making available the 8-metre by 4-metre marquee for schools, sporting and other community groups to loan.

For further information about the marquee please contact Helen Williams at the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.

ABOVE RIGHT: New Hope's new marquee in use at CRT FarmFest recently.

## NEW ACLAND FUTURE

**Residents may have noticed recent public statements regarding the future of the New Acland mine and proposed extension of the operation.**

New Hope is in discussions with the State Government over this issue and will keep the community updated. For more than a decade, New Acland has been

an important part of the Darling Downs community and is proud of its record as an unwavering major employer and economic spur to the region.

The mine has provided full time jobs for 300 local workers and indirect jobs to thousands more across the Downs and the flow-on economic and social benefits

have been significant. Mining has successfully co-existed with agriculture on the Darling Downs since the beginning of the last century and New Hope is committed to supporting the communities in which we operate.

For more information please contact Helen Williams in the Oakey Information Office.

## NEW ACLAND JOINS IN FARMFEST-IVITIES

**New Acland's display at CRT FarmFest last month was visited by more than three hundred people.**

The team from New Acland and Acland Pastoral Company (APC)

mingled with farmers providing valuable information and answering questions on mining and APCs latest initiatives.

RIGHT: New Acland General Manager Jim Randell presents a winning ribbon at CRT FarmFest.



## Oakey Soccer Club Sports New Security

**Security at the Oakey Soccer Club will be bolstered with a new high tech security system thanks to the New Hope Group.**

"This support from New Hope will help us secure the club and safeguard the facilities we need each week for our members and visitors," club president Paul Langton said.

New Acland General Manager Jim Randell said: "The Oakey Soccer Club is just one of the important local community groups that New Hope is proud to support".

LEFT: Oakey Soccer Club juniors celebrate the club's sponsorship deal with New Hope.



## NEW ACLAND TRAINS OUR FUTURE

**New Acland's apprentices have taken out top honours in this year's regional awards. Mitchell Lucht and Marvin Hobelt continued the winning ways of many former New Acland apprentices, being recognised for their exceptional performance.**

New Hope apprentices have now won nine awards and been finalists 31 times in local, regional and state apprentice and trainee awards in just the last three years.

Mitchell, a fourth stage apprentice, was recently voted the 'Most Improved Metal Fabrication Apprentice' by the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

Marvin was named 'School-based Engineering/Automotive Apprentice of the Year' by Downs Group Training (DGT) at their recent awards in Toowoomba.

Mitchell was also a finalist at the Downs Group Training awards for 'Fourth Stage Apprentice of the Year' and also started at Acland as a school-based apprentice.

"I was pretty proud and honoured to win the award - all the hard work has paid off," Mitchell said.

"It's really good to win this because it also reflects on the mine itself, especially the systems they have put in place to help apprentices."

Marvin only started with New Acland in January this year and is relishing in the sense of achievement.

"I really enjoy the feeling of going home after being on shift and feeling like I have accomplished something," he said.

"I'm learning heaps and the best part is working on the big excavators - they are really cool!"

Other New Acland finalists at the Downs Group Training awards were: Callum Apelt for Second Stage Apprentice of the Year; Ryan Stevenson for Fourth Stage Apprentice of the Year; and Cameron Saal for Fourth Stage Apprentice of the Year.

BOTTOM: New Acland's Marvin Hobelt (left) and Alan Richardson from Downs Group Training award sponsor Busy At Work.

