

## SLICE OF LOCAL HISTORY ON DISPLAY IN OAKEY

**A new display portraying the Oakey region's coal mining history is on show at the New Hope Group's Community Information Centre.**

Kath and John Greenhalgh have kindly donated the use of items from the former Acland No.2 underground mine for the information centre on Campbell Street in Oakey.

"The display looks really good. It's nice to see these things out again as we have had them all packed away for a few years now," Mrs Greenhalgh said.

"There are a lot of descendants locally of all the people who worked in the former underground mines at Acland, Balgowan, Willeroo 1, Willeroo 2, Sugarloaf, and also at the former mine here in Oakey, who we hope would be interested in the items on display.

"It's also a reminder of how busy the area once was with mining. The mines once served the railways, brickworks, the gasworks in Toowoomba, hospitals and abattoirs."

Mrs Greenhalgh said the trousers and shirt on the mannequin once belonged to their son who worked at Acland No.2 and the coat and helmet were from other fellow miners in the early 1980s.

The Acland No.2 Colliery, which opened in 1929, was the last underground mine operating in the area when it closed in 1984.

The Greenhalghs owned the farm on which the mine was located and they then ran the Acland Mining Museum on site until they retired in 2000.

Anyone with interesting items from the local underground mines is also welcome to loan them for the display. Please contact Helen or Naomi on 4691 3445.



New Hope's Naomi Tonscheck with Kath and John Greenhalgh and the mining display

## IMPROVING SAFETY FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

**Oakey State High School students are on their way to making local roads safer after attending a potentially lifesaving road safety education workshop supported by the New Hope Group.**

The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Program is a one-day event

for year 11 students which delivers practical road safety information targeting the attitude and awareness of young drivers and passengers.

RYDA Darling Downs Chairman Allan Rother said it was important to reach out to students who will soon have their provisional driver's licences.

"The RYDA Program includes a number of sessions throughout the day covering a range of topics such as stopping distances, hazard perception, distractions and alcohol, as well as hearing from emergency services representatives, driving instructors and a crash survivor," he said.

"It can be a real eye-opener for many students, and is an important reminder for young people about how one split decision can affect not just your own life, but the people around you."

New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said the company was proud to once again support the RYDA Program.

"We take safety very seriously at the New Acland Coal Mine, and it is important that young drivers and passengers know how to make safe decisions on our roads," he said.

"New Hope's sponsorship of the program enabled the Oakey State High School students to attend RYDA and also provided access to qualified driving instructors."



Brian Boyce, Allan Rother, Naomi Tonscheck, Phil Chapman and Maree Bath at the RYDA Program



### NEW ACLAND COMMUNITY UPDATE

September 2014

## WATER MANAGEMENT AT NEW ACLAND COAL MINE

**The New Acland Coal Mine will continue to be self-sufficient for water under the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project.**

New Hope's Executive General Manager of Mining Jim Randell said that every drop of water is precious.

"Here at the New Acland Coal Mine, we are self-sufficient in our use and re-use of water throughout the site," he said.

"The only water we use from aquifers is for drinking water and bathroom use. Any other water use on our site – for example in our coal preparation process – is recycled wastewater."

New Hope purchases recycled water from the Toowoomba Regional Council's Wetalla wastewater facility.

In 2009, New Hope built a pumping system and a pipeline from Wetalla to the New Acland mine.

"Because our operations use this wastewater it also saves money for local ratepayers," Mr Randell said.

All rainwater that falls on the New Acland Mine site is captured in dams and used and re-used in mining and farming activities.

"The water used in our coal preparation process is pumped to thickeners and to dams, where the dirt and sediment settles to the bottom and then the water is used again and again in the coal preparation process," Mr Randell said.



Monitoring Wetalla wastewater at the New Acland Coal Mine

A water truck in action at the New Acland Coal Mine

## NEW HOPE MEETS COMMITMENTS

**The New Hope Group has decreased the size of its mining lease application area to honour commitments made under the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project.**

This reduction in size (officially called a partial abandonment) removes the Acland town area, including Tom Doherty Park, the War Memorial and the Acland No.2 Colliery, from the mining lease application for the revised Project.

It also removes the southern portion of the mining lease application, ensuring that mining would not come within 10 kilometres of Oakey, and that the amount of land disturbed for mining activities will be reduced by more than half.

"The reduction in size of the mining lease application demonstrates that New Hope is genuine in the compromises that we have proposed in the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project," New Hope Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said.

Under the proposal, the Acland town area will remain in place and a management plan has been developed to ensure the area is maintained.

"We have listened to the community and are acting to minimise impacts from our mining activities on the local area and its residents," Mr Denney said.

"The compromises we have made as part of the revised Project are about ensuring that this important local industry, the New Acland Coal Mine, is not lost to the Oakey area."

### CONTACT

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- ▶ New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell St, Oakey

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



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# NEW ACLAND COAL MINE STAGE 3 REVISED PROJECT PROGRESS

The New Hope Group has provided further information on the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project Environmental Impact Statement to the Office of the Coordinator-General.

The Coordinator-General will use this information, along with feedback from the public, to help inform his decision.

The revised Project would boost current employment from around 300 local jobs to about 435, along with creating a further 260 construction jobs and thousands more indirect jobs.

It will also provide a \$530 million injection into the South East Queensland economy each year and \$8 billion over the life of the mine.

For further information on the Project please visit [aclandproject.com.au](http://aclandproject.com.au), call 1800 882 142, or drop in to the New Hope Community Information Centre in Oakey.



Public tour at the New Acland Coal Mine

## 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
Coordinator-General's report and approval decision	Late 2014
Construction (if approved)	Between 2015 and 2017

# NEW HOPE COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE WELCOMES NEW COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

The New Hope Group is delighted to welcome local resident Naomi Tonscheck as part of its community team.

Naomi takes up the reins of Community Liaison Officer, joining Helen Braithwaite in the New Hope Community Information Centre, based in Oakey.



Naomi Tonscheck and Helen Braithwaite at the New Hope Community Information Centre

Naomi lives on the original "Tonscheck" home just north of Kulpi with husband Matt Tonscheck, whose family has been based in the Kulpi/Evergreen area for more than 75 years.

"I am proud to be part of this community and am grateful that my two children will grow up here," she said.

"The mine has enhanced financial security within our region, improved facilities, introduced many new families into the area and given us all a reason to plant roots here.

"As Treasurer of the Maclagan Windermere Kindergarten in 2012, I saw first-hand the benefit that a large company like New Hope can bring to a small community group.

"I'm looking forward to getting out and about with Helen and the rest of the team over the coming months, and having the chance to build strong relationships within this community for the long-term."

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the New Acland Coal Mine can visit New Hope's Community Information Centre in Campbell Street, Oakey.

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

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

Outside of these hours, Helen and Naomi can be found traveling throughout the region talking to local people at meetings and other work-related events.

# WORK PROGRESSING IN ACLAND

Work is underway around Acland to maintain the township and its facilities as part of the Acland Management Plan for the revised New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project.

Under the revised Project, the Acland town area, including the Tom Doherty Park, War Memorial and Acland No.2 Colliery, will be left in place.

New Hope's Chief Operating Officer Bruce Denney said the company will maintain these properties to ensure their preservation.

"The revised New Acland Project will also ensure that permanent access and utility

services to Acland will be maintained over the life of the Project," he said.

"The first stage of tree planting around the township has already started, featuring tree species that are native to the area and will be easy to maintain.

"Under the revised Project, New Hope will also expand its Lagoon Creek conservation zone to protect trees and koala habitats.

"The revised Project's Acland Colliery Conservation Management Plan outlines steps to preserve the original Acland underground mine pit head and buildings.

"New Hope is continuing to consult with local landowners and community members to achieve the best possible outcomes under the revised Project plan."

The revised Stage 3 Project plan is currently before the Queensland Coordinator-General, with a report and approval decision expected later this year.

The current mine will run out of coal in around two years and so the revised Stage 3 Project is aimed at keeping the mine operating and maintaining local jobs and community benefits.



Tree planting around Acland township

Work is progressing around Acland township

# LOCAL GROUPS BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

The New Hope Group has announced that six local community initiatives will share in more than \$140,000 through the latest round of its New Acland Community Investment Fund (CIF).

With the assistance of the New Acland Community Reference Group (CRG), the CIF was established in 2013 by New Hope as a way of strengthening the company's ongoing commitment to community development on the Darling Downs.

CRG members, who represent a broad cross section of community interests in the area surrounding the New Acland Coal Mine, assessed applications and made recommendations to New Hope on appropriate community initiatives for support.

"This funding round we will support the Goombungee Public Hall with the installation of insulation and lining of the ceiling as part of the hall upgrade project," New Acland General Manager Andrew McDonald said.

"The Goombungee State School P&C will receive funds to upgrade the pool and its facilities, allowing for longer opening hours, fitness and learn to swim

programs to operate and a reduction in operating costs.

"The Haden State School P&C will be able to construct a shelter area at the front of the school which can be used by students waiting for buses or to be collected by parents, as well as any other visitors to the school.

"The Maclagan Memorial Hall Association will receive funds to help refresh the hall by painting the building's exterior and replacing the entry steps.

"The Oakey Historical Museum Society will be able to build a new BBQ area

which will be used by visitors to the museum and groups who hire the venue for functions.

"The Toowoomba Clubhouse Association will receive funding to trial and establish a more permanent clubhouse service in Oakey to create a supportive community for those living with mental illness where they can connect with their peers, build confidence and actively participate in the community."

For more information please visit the New Hope Community Information Centre.



CIF recipients enjoy afternoon tea in Oakey with New Acland staff and CRG members