



**NEW HOPE
GROUP**

**NEW HOPE
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**
MARCH 2021



EASTER MESSAGE

NEW ACLAND GENERAL MANAGER DAVE O'DWYER WISHES THE LOCAL COMMUNITY A HAPPY AND SAFE EASTER.

With the holiday season upon us, I find myself reflecting on the past year.

It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating Christmas, now here we are at Easter.

New Acland's enviable rehabilitation and environmental practices are what sets us apart, and it's important to acknowledge the talented team that makes this work possible.

In this newsletter you'll hear from one of our Environmental Officers, Jaymee Wicks, who reveals what it takes to run a sustainable and responsible mining operation.

Speaking of sustainability, it was terrific to welcome Year 12 Geography students from Fairholme College to site recently.

The students spent time collecting data to calculate plant diversity across both rehabilitated and unmined sites – who knows, these students may be working alongside Jaymee in years to come!

At New Acland, we're proud to support the local community. In this newsletter you'll discover how we lent a helping hand at the Oakey Show and why it's full steam ahead at Jondaryan Mini Rail.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful Easter.

Dave O'Dwyer

New Acland Mine General Manager



NAC03 UPDATE

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS RETURN TO THE QUEENSLAND LAND COURT.

On 3 February this year, the High Court upheld an appeal by the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA) against NAC in relation to the Queensland Court of Appeal's decision on final orders handed down on 1 November 2019.

The High Court appeal concerned technical matters of procedure relating to apprehended bias against NAC. It did not challenge any issue relating to groundwater or the environment, which NAC had successfully argued in the Queensland Courts.

The High Court's decision to uphold the appeal means NAC's mining lease applications and environmental authority application have gone back to the Queensland Land Court for reconsideration.

Despite the Federal Government issuing the requisite Federal Approvals for Stage 3, we still need the green light from the State Government.

THE SHOW GOES ON

LENDING A HELPING HAND

The Oakey Show is a calendar highlight for the region, and particularly so this year after a COVID-19 induced hiatus in 2020.

The team at Acland Pastoral Company (APC) were happy to support the event, with the donation of 6 x 600-kilogram hay bales for the winner of the Prime Cattle Competition.

New Hope Group also provided gift bags to each entrant in the kids cooking competition, as well as lighting towers to keep the show going into the evening.

New Hope Community Liaison, Rebecca Meacham, said it was fantastic to see the community come together after a challenging 2020.

“We know how much the community looks forward to the Oakey Show, and we’re glad we could provide some support.”



APC UPDATE

MORE THAN 1,000 WEANERS WILL SOON HEAD SOUTH TO BENGALLA AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

APC's herd is thriving, but it's about to get a lot smaller.

Now that calving and branding is finished on APC's 1,200 strong breeder herd, the team is preparing to wean 1,080 Angus, Hereford and Santa heifers and steers.

The weaners will make the trip south to Bengalla Agricultural Company (BAC) at the beginning of May.

New Hope Group Agricultural Manager, Tim Burgess, said BAC has excellent feed to fatten the weaners.

“BAC will receive all the weaned cattle at around 200 kilograms and hopefully fatten them to 440 kilograms, before selling the cattle into the NSW market.”

The remainder of the breeder herd will continue grazing on APC property and on rehabilitated land at New Acland.

“The rehabilitated land is performing well and is integral to the management of our cattle,” Mr Burgess said.

Good winter rains have also led to a strong yield for APC, with 435ha of dryland barley silage, 210ha of forage oats and 132ha of irrigated barley silage

crop harvested. The irrigated silage crop provided a particularly high yield of 35 tonnes per hectare.

Average summer rains have seen APC plant 120ha of dryland white sorghum silage, 380ha of dryland sorghum grain and 132ha of irrigated white sorghum silage.

APC staff have been busy over the past few months, with several other projects on the go.

The team is in the process of removing boxthorn from along neighbours' fence lines, as well as trialling remote trough level indicators that allow them to monitor levels remotely via an app.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

JAYMEE WICKS' LOVE OF SCIENCE LED HER TO PURSUE A CAREER AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER.

New Hope Group is proud to be an industry leader in mine rehabilitation and environmental practices; a feat made possible by a brilliant team of Environmental Officers.

Jaymee Wicks is one of those individuals.

She credits her 'science mad mind' and some invaluable advice from her dad for her decision to study Environmental Engineering and Science at the University of Southern Queensland.

"I first heard about New Hope Group while I was studying. With a reputation for best practice rehabilitation and environmental management I had an immediate interest in the company," Jaymee said.

Almost 10 years later, a friend brought her attention to a job advertisement for an Environmental Officer at New Acland.

"I've been in Toowoomba since 2005 and consider the region home. It's rare to find a job like this one in mining and still be so close to home."

In her role, Jaymee ensures New Acland is following best practice environmental management, which includes keeping the mine accountable to approval conditions set by governing bodies.

Her workdays are varied, comprising time in the office and out on site.

"On a day-to-day basis I can be undertaking desktop reviews, preparing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data and mapping, analysing monitoring data and plotting out trends in our site conditions or undertaking environmental monitoring programs.

"Our monitoring programs include measuring dust, noise, vibration, surface water quality in on-site storages or off-site waterways and groundwater quality.

"Environmental management plays such an important part in our daily operations and I am fortunate to work for a company that values rehabilitation, the environment and environmental management so highly," Jaymee said.

As to her favourite part about working at New Acland, Jaymee said it's too hard to settle on just one thing, but she loves the feeling of camaraderie on site.

"I remember when I started almost 12 months ago now, it felt so comfortable even on the first day, which is a rare find and one I am grateful for."



FAIRHOLME EXCURSION

NEW ACLAND RECENTLY WELCOMED A VISIT FROM YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS AT FAIRHOLME COLLEGE.

The year 12 students visited New Acland Mine to gain a better understanding of New Hope's rehabilitation practices.

They also spent time collecting data to calculate plant diversity across both rehabilitated and unmined sites. The students will now analyse the data to inform their field reports.

General Manager, Dave O'Dwyer, welcomed the students and took them through a safety induction.

"It was great to have the students at New Acland and we hope their visit was an interesting addition to their studies," Mr O'Dwyer said.

New Acland's Senior Environmental Adviser, Brooke Topp, hosted the tour and helped students gather data and identify plant species.





FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR JONDARYAN MINI RAIL

JONDARYAN MINI RAIL HAS ERECTED A NEW SHADE STRUCTURE, THANKS TO A NEW ACLAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANT.

Visitors to Jondaryan Woolshed will now be able to wait for a train ride in the shade, following the construction of a new shelter.

The project, undertaken by the Jondaryan Mini Rail Club, was made possible by a New Acland Community Investment Fund grant from 2020.

Jondaryan Mini Rail Vice President, John Phillips, said the shade structure will better protect riders.

“This will make the club area a lot more attractive to the public and ensure visitors keep turning up.”

ENQUIRIES & COMPLAINTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OUR COMMUNITY OF SOME HELPFUL NEW ACLAND CONTACTS.

For general, non-urgent matters please call
(07) 4691 3445.

For urgent safety, environmental or operations matters requiring immediate attention, please call our 24-hour community hotline on **1800 882 142.**

You can also reach us by email:
community@newhopegroup.com.au

To find out more, please visit:
<https://newhopegroup.com.au/>



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