

FOUNDATION BROKEN HILL

PO Box 899 Broken Hill NSW 2880

A 164 Argent Street Broken Hill

P 08 8087 9985 | M 0403 583 627

E manager@foundationbh.org.au

W www.foundationbh.org.au

A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 29

March 2023

Cobalt Blue Broken Hill progress

Following last year's *Major Project Status* award by the Australian Government, Cobalt Blue Holdings' Broken Hill Cobalt Project has gone on to achieve a series of milestones that adds to our optimism about the project and its potential for hundreds of local residential and regional jobs.

A recent report has shown a higher level of cobalt recovery than expected (up to 95% recovery from ore to concentrate) with the results independently assessed by a third-party laboratory.

More than 30 of the world's largest battery manufacturers are keeping a close eye on the Broken Hill project—with good reason, it would appear.



Our CEO Travis Nadge and Chairman John Lynch have been working closely with Cobalt Blue which is one of five resource companies the Foundation has been consulting with to assist progress with their plans and initiatives.

Continued on page 2

58th St Pat's on track for 2023

Foundation Broken Hill is only one of many local organisations and businesses decked out to welcome the 2023 St Pat's racing carnival.

After having to contend with Covid 19 health and safety restrictions in 2021 and gremlin-like telecommunications issues in 2022, the Broken Hill St Pat's Race Meeting is gearing up to be the best on record.

Recently elected Race Club President Andrew Schmidt says the committee has been busy focussing on connectivity issues since the 2022 meeting and racegoers can expect pleasant surprises.

They include improvements useful for visitors, racegoers, bookies and committee members, with changes for the fabulous St Pat's fashions field too.

Continued on page 2



Diary Dates:

- 11 March
St Pat's Races
- 13 March
Board Meeting in Broken Hill
- 24-26 March
Perfect Light Film Festival
- 18 April
Board Meeting
- 9 May
Board Meeting

Inside this issue:

- A word from the CEO 2
- Project Update 3
- School Vouchers 3
- New Project: Rockt lift off 3
- Imperial Lakes Nature Park 4
- FBH: How it works 4

Please remember the Foundation in your Will

Cobalt Blue project (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The concentrate will now be processed further to make the first larger-scale samples of Mixed Hydroxide Precipitate (MHP), which will be dispatched to global battery and EV makers for testing this year. The Concentrator Circuit processed 4,200 tonnes of ore last year to produce 680 tonnes of wet concentrate.

A further 800 - 1,000 tonnes of ore remains available for optimisation studies in the future.

The operation is widely recognised as large-scale and will eventually be one of the largest cobalt producers in the world.



Cobalt Blue's website claims 'if Broken Hill were a country, it would rank No.5 in the world for cobalt production'.

According to the CEO of Cobalt Blue, Joe Kaderavek:

"This is technically substantial proof of our concentration operation. Converting over 4,000 tonnes of variable low to high grade ore to a consistent high-grade concentrate is a major project enabling step."

This project continues to excite us and we will continue to provide updates as they are available. ■

A word from the CEO ...

The first quarter of 2023 has been extraordinarily busy.

We have continued in our project work supporting and assisting the major mining and resource companies with their proposals for the Broken Hill region but, underneath that, have sustained our key role of assisting small business through receiving, assessing, funding and mentoring their projects.

The FRRR School Voucher program and the attraction and processing of contenders for the Foundation/Skillshare Training Grants are both time-consuming operations—but enjoyable because of benefits to young people.

Admin Assistant Kirsty Murray has done a sterling job with both programs, especially interacting so well with the hundreds of parents and children at her desk for the vouchers.

We all think 2023 is going to be an exciting year for Broken Hill and the surrounding area.

For us, it will also include a focus on internal governance and strategic planning.

We very much look forward to being involved. ■



Travis Nadge, CEO
Foundation Broken Hill

Welcome St Pat's (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The Fashions on the Field competition is hotly contested every year with the 2023 event featuring categories for males and females of all ages and judged by a panel of three independent ladies well known in the fashion field.

Shannen Graham of Adelaide SA, Bec Sheehan of Gold Coast QLD and local Kelly Zanker will have the difficult job on race day of selecting the best dressed patrons.

A big change this year is that Marg Corradini has chosen to step down from the position of Race Club President (although she accepted a push for her to remain on the Committee). Marg is acknowledged for her sense of passion, professionalism and commitment over many years.



In-coming President Andrew Schmidt knows he has popular shoes to fill and we know he'll do it well (although it's difficult to think of Andrew in Marg's sophisticated high-heel fashion footwear without a smile).

Good luck everyone—whether you're a regular racegoer, visitor to our fair city or just a local who knows a fabulous place to have a picnic in March—Foundation Broken Hill hopes you enjoy the weekend. ■

News in Brief...

Good response for Training Grants

- ◆ We were pleased to see the diversity in applications for this year's Foundation/Skillshare Training Grants program.
- ◆ The 2023 program differs from previous years in that up to 10 grants are available, each worth up to \$1000.
- ◆ 16 applicants are now moving through the selection process which will include trade skills, apprenticeships and mature age tertiary education.

New projects on the pathway

- ◆ By using communication tools such as Zoom meetings and emails, we have been able to approve some smaller projects that began in the first quarter of 2023.
- ◆ Development approval and licensing authorities have delayed one we like and others, such as support for the local film industry, have already gone ahead.
- ◆ We'll have more details on these for the next newsletter.

Earthmoving start-up and expansion

- ◆ An interest-free loan has been approved for a local earthmoving company to establish and progress expansion.
- ◆ The Aboriginal owned and operated small business has clear goals to access NSW Government funding to train and employ local people to meet an identified gap in currently available services. ■

School Vouchers: A big tick!

More than \$30,000 has been injected into the local economy at the start of this year with the distribution of more than 600 Back to School Vouchers.

Asta and Tobin from Burke Ward Public School (seen at right with Foundation CEO Travis Nadge) were excited and ready to go shopping with their \$50 vouchers.

Most of the vouchers will be spent at Kmart Broken Hill in the national program led by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) but one-third are specifically reserved for identified Far West Proud local businesses.

This is the nineteenth consecutive year the Foundation has participated in the FRRR school voucher program (since inception), with the cumulative impact on the local economy now amounting to almost \$400,000 and assisting more than 7,600 students.

The vouchers improve access to education for young people who may otherwise feel excluded without items they need to engage well with their peers.



Voucher distribution can be labour intensive for the Foundation, but our financial commitment is small.

Admin Assistant Kirsty Murray has handed over 278 of the vouchers from our Argent St office, while local schools Alma, Burke Ward, Railway Town, Morgan Street, and Wilcannia have assisted, along with Mission Australia, Making Tracks and Catholic Care.

Kirsty is working on a huge spreadsheet to ensure there are no double-dips and identity proof such as concession cards has helped to ensure the vouchers go to the right families. ■

Rockt about to lift off !

One of our new projects for 2023 has lifted off, with the entrepreneur already working with local business interests to explain the benefits about to be available to them.

The new business is called *Rockt* and basically is an app which makes it easy to matchmake local business vacancies with potential new employees.

The app initially will pilot in Broken Hill for the first months but eventually will spread world-wide.

Proprietor Paula (Polly) Doran says anyone who has used Tinder or other such sites will know exactly how it works, but she has been keen to speak with local businesses to be sure the value to them is well understood.



Paula hosted an information session in the first week of March and is buoyed by the strong interest from businessowners and others across the community.

Foundation CEO Travis Nadge and other Directors on the Finance Committee spent some time with Paula in the early stages of her application to us and the full Board enjoyed an excellent presentation from her before approval was granted for an interest-free start-up loan.

Good luck Rockt ■

Imperial Lakes Nature Park making progress

Foundation Broken Hill has yet to commit funding specifically to the reopening of Imperial Lakes but we are a big supporter and most of our Directors are members of Broken Hill Landcare which is spearheading the push.

Landcare Broken Hill are now the official owners of the land and going forward (after community consultation) it will be known as **"Imperial Lakes Nature Park"**.

A part-time Ranger has been employed for the site, Essential Water has released 7 megalitres of water into the lakes and a mammoth clean-up task has improved around the entrance, the grounds and the perimeter.

With the formal hand-over of the land following extensive

consultation with Essential Water and between Essential Water and Broken Hill City Council, Broken Hill Landcare looks to be on track to achieving its ambitious goals for the 58.72 hectare site.

It's going to take time but successful progress to date has everyone confident it will

eventually be possible to welcome visitors to Broken Hill and the multi-purpose venue all year round.

Initial proposed activities include row boating, bike riding, walking trails and space for family picnics.



Archived pic of Imperial Lake from the 1970s

And there are detailed plans in place for conservation and training projects which are exciting.

Broken Hill has been asking for this for more than 40 years.

Congratulations to all involved. ■

Foundation Broken Hill: How it works...

Foundation Broken Hill facilitates employment opportunities and encourages social development in Broken Hill and the surrounding region.

Its core function is to help Broken Hill create sustainable alternative businesses to replace mining industry jobs as the ore bodies are progressively exhausted.

The Foundation Board comprises a set of highly skilled people with diverse expertise, who give their time voluntarily for community benefit. We do this by:

1. Raising capital funds... through fundraising campaigns which seek donations from current and former Broken Hill residents, local businesses, broader industry and governments,

2. Recognising contributions... through a structured Friends of the Foundation pyramid at Platinum, Gold, Silver and Zinc levels, with opportunity for smaller once-only donations too,

3. Investing the capital... where your gift is held in perpetuity but generates interest to be used for approved projects—**or** an option where your gift is held in a **Project Fund** to be channelled directly into assessed projects at the discretion of the Board,

4. Carefully assessing applications for funding support... through a thorough process that includes review of documentation, business planning assessments, face-to-face discussion and site visits where relevant,

5. Providing support... in appropriate forms, which can include once-only small grants or larger interest-free loans repayable over a longer term with flexible sustainable payment plans and some 'breathing space' for new or emerging businesses, and

6. Monitoring and reviewing... businesses who have received support to identify whether additional assistance is required, including mentoring.

Foundation Broken Hill has been operating in the local community for more than 22 years and is now sustainable in its own right.

It needs support to grow the Capital and Project Funds so it can increase more meaningful contributions to the community. ■

This newsletter is published by Foundation Broken Hill to inform stakeholders about activities of relevance to Broken Hill and the surrounding region. If you would like further information about articles included in the newsletter or ways in which you could support the Foundation, please contact our Chief Executive Officer Travis Nadge on 08 80879985 or by email to manager@foundationbh.org.au. We would also welcome you to visit our offices at 164 Argent Street or use our office mobile on 0403 583 627. Our website is at www.foundationbh.org.au.