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A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 21

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On the way to 400 new jobs

The recent unveiling of a \$2M cobalt processing demonstration plant in Broken Hill's industrial precinct is exciting for the Foundation, local businesses and residents.

The *Cobalt Blue* facility on Kanandah Road has been built with local suppliers, labour, skills and talents—now sustaining a current workforce of 12, but predicted to ultimately grow to 400 when domestic and offshore investment facilitates the development of a cobalt mine 23kms west of the city.

Foundation Broken Hill has been consulting with Cobalt Blue since conception stage and has been eagerly anticipating the launch of the pilot plant to be used to demonstrate its innovative processes to potential investors.

An Open Day and formal commissioning of the plant at the end of May included a site tour for local shareholders, potential investors and local businesses.

At just 23kms to the eventual cobalt mine, this project has potential to support a significant local and imported workforce and their families.

An FBH Board Meeting was held in May so we could talk directly with Cobalt Blue's Independent Chairman, Board Directors and Chief Executive Officer to discuss our shared vision for the project.

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Cobalt Blue Broken Hill Project 23 kms from the city

Co-funding for new Project Officer

The Foundation is partnering with three resource companies to employ a Project Officer, based locally, who can help those companies with their research and development of proposals to invest in Broken Hill and the region.

Benagerie Gold & Copper (BGC), Cobalt Blue Holdings and Lodestone Mines will share the cost of the Project Officer in a 12 month contract and we are also seeking additional government support.

The Project Officer will be accommodated in the Foundation offices at 164 Argent Street and report directly to Foundation CEO Gayle Ball—but also to nominated contacts within the co-funding companies.

The new position will be responsible for investigating and developing the strategic directions required for attracting and retaining a skilled residential workforce ahead of those potential developments.

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Diary Dates:

- 28 June Board Meeting in Broken Hill
- 1 July Opening of Thrive Medical Centre
- 13 July FBH Zoom meeting
- 13 August White Cliffs Underground Art Festival
- 25 October AGM/ monthly meeting in Broken Hill

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BROKEN HILL

BGC
BENAGERIE
GOLD & COPPER

CobaltBlue

Fe
Lodestone
Mines

Donations work for Broken Hill in perpetuity

400 jobs in the pipeline (cont)

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The Cobalt Broken Hill project will become one of the largest cobalt producers in the world. It is distinctive in that it is a primary cobalt mine, whereas 98% of cobalt produced globally is a by-product of either copper or nickel mining.

Principally the cobalt will be used in batteries, high-temperature alloys, cutting tools, magnetic materials, superalloys, petrochemical catalysts and pharmaceuticals.

The high-quality battery component produced through the BH project would be enough to power five million electric vehicles world-wide.

Cobalt Blue's Broken Hill Project is based on sustainable principles and best practice management of water, waste and biodiversity.

The processing is highly technical and local secondary students are being encouraged to arrange visits to the facility to understand the skills needed in the future. ■



Open Day at the Cobalt Blue Broken Hill Demonstration Site (photo by Raj Ravinga)

A word from the Chair...

The last time I wrote in this column I was very optimistic about the exciting potential in store for Broken Hill in 2021. And so it has come to pass.

This newsletter is full of positive articles, including the Cobalt Blue launch of its demonstration facility and our partnership with three different resource companies to employ a Project Officer who can help them with the information they need to achieve their strategic plans. This type of collaboration is unique in Broken Hill and stems from a long pathway of communication and consultation.

To accomplish these connections we met fortnightly (and, at times weekly) with companies, as a group and individually. It was time consuming for them—and us, as a voluntary team but we are increasingly hopeful it will all mean big dividends for the city and region.

The Mundi Mundi Bash (back page of this newsletter) is exciting—not just for the 10,000 people who already have tickets for the sold-out August event, but also for the quality of performers it has attracted and for the national and international exposure the three-day event will generate.

Again, I think this will be a good year for us. ■



John Lynch OAM, Chairman
Foundation Broken Hill

New role funding shared (cont)

Continued from page 1

The new role will specifically research and report (in partnership with the Broken Hill City Council) on infrastructure in the Broken Hill region including housing, childcare, education, recreation, liveability, training and transport requirements.

The recruitment process has begun, with plans to have a suitable person in the role as soon as practicable.

Long-term benefit will also come from this new position in the creation and development of a forum of 'emerging leaders' as nominated by employers in the region.

We believe it is 'a first' for a local not-for-profit organisation to establish a funding partnership with several separate mining or commercial resource companies—all working together with a common goal. Broken Hill and region will be the ultimate beneficiaries. ■



Foundation Broken Hill offices at 164 Arent Street

News in Brief...

White Cliffs Art Festival

- ◆ The Foundation has approved a small grant for this year's White Cliffs Underground Art Festival on 13 August.
- ◆ Our grant will contribute to prizemoney for the winning entrants, mostly from Broken Hill and the surrounding region.
- ◆ It's hoped the unique underground setting will attract new visitors for the region.

Barrier Truth support continues

- ◆ The Barrier Truth has resolved to continue providing in-kind support for the Foundation for the next few months.
- ◆ The support will be limited to a fixed amount and expire in October but, given the year the paper has endured, we really appreciate the contribution.
- ◆ A return to Gold Friend status may be considered in the future.

Country Universities Centre graduation

- ◆ The Foundation also provided a small grant to the inaugural graduation ceremony of the Country Universities Far West chapter.
- ◆ Our Director Karren Howe was a graduate. Well done Karren.

Find us on Facebook

- ◆ Our social media presence is expanding and our Facebook page has received more than 1000 likes over recent months.
- ◆ We are also moving on to other groups and platforms. Great if you now live 'away from home' ■

Meet the Board: Out & About

For a team of volunteers—already with busy personal lives and challenging businesses—the Directors of Foundation Broken Hill certainly 'get out and about' representing us in the local and regional community.

There were many fun events of course—St Pat's Races; Perfect Light Film Festival; Broken Hill Film Festival; Art, Music and Heritage Festivals; and planning forums for the future Mundi Mundi Bush Bash.

We found our place at conferences and meetings too—Australian Women's Pilots (a speaking role); combined NSW Councils; and with Landcare Broken Hill.

Directors also participated in site tours of the Line of Lode project; Bushy White's Museum; and the new Umpires Rooms at Jubilee Oval checking out our funding support.

Throughout all this, the Foundation led a regular forum with players in the resource sector who had their sights set on the local region and then met individually with some to



Foundation Director Karren Howe and Deputy Chair Chris Dougherty with Mundi Mundi Bash Managing Director Greg Donovan (centre) at a local business forum

identify what was needed to ensure their projects/concepts became reality.

Key discussions were held with the Broken Hill City Council, NSW Resilience Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, and other significant people in the NSW Government, along with key figures in the ranks of the State opposition.

All this on top of our own regular monthly or fortnightly and committee meetings. Busy people !! ■

It's Tax Time! You can claim FBH

Now that Foundation Broken Hill has been *Specifically Listed in the Tax Law as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)* any contribution you make to the Foundation will be a legitimate claim in this year's tax return.

All donations—no matter how small—will work towards the benefit of Broken Hill and the region.

The Foundation is appealing for local (and former local) residents and small businesses to make a contribution before 30 June 2021.

There are now several options. You can choose for that contribution to be protected in the Capital Fund so it works for Broken Hill forever—or go into a Projects Fund which is spent directly on specific projects, events or developments assessed as worthwhile for the community.

We have tried to be as flexible as possible and make the process of making a donation as easy as possible.

Donations can be once-only or repeated monthly, quarterly, or annually—and can be made through cash, cheque or direct transfer on-line (BSB 032-816 A/c 232783).

At this stage, we only have the DGR for five years, but intend to use the local response in any future submission for an extension.

If you're interested, but would like more information, please contact our CEO Gayle Ball on **08 8087 9985** or email Gayle at

manager@foundationbh.org.au

or call in to our offices at 164 Argent Street (near the Demo Club). ■

Please remember the Foundation in your Will

10,000 people for Broken Hill Mundi Mundi Bash

The Broken Hill and regional business communities are gearing up for an influx of up to 10,000 people for a unique music festival being staged near Silverton on the Mundi Mundi Plains in August. Tickets for the event have already sold out and camping sites are scarce, with the nearby Broken Hill Racecourse coming in to offer sites on the main oval.

The event is being brought to the site by the producers of the iconic *Birdsville Big Red Bash* and will include a host of popular performers.

Those lucky enough to have tickets will be entertained by Paul Kelly, Ian Moss, John Williamson, Tim Finn, Kate Ceberano, Glenn Shorrock,



'It's Out There!' Beauty of the outback about to go on show for the nation

Ross Wilson, Shannon Noll and Mi-Sex among many more.

The Foundation is keen to work with the organisers and Broken Hill City Council to ensure the benefits from

the stream of new visitors remain long term.

Two forums have been held with local businesses to outline how best to use this fantastic opportunity. ■

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 20 years and is now sustainable in its own right.

It needs support to grow the Capital Fund 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 Gayle Ball on 08 80879985 or by email to manager@foundationbh.org.au. We would also welcome you to visit our offices at 164 Argent Street. The office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. Our website at www.foundationbh.org.au provides more information.