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A newsletter for stakeholders

Issue 24

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ASX has granted BH Cobalt Project 'Australian Major Project' status

Cobalt Blue Holdings' Broken Hill Cobalt Project has been granted *Major Project Status* by the Australian Government. The grant will apply for three years to support the project through its development phase.

Cobalt Blue is one of five resource companies the Foundation has been working with in the progress of their initiatives.

The announcement acknowledges the real potential of this project to ultimately employ more than 400 people, with a key goal for this to be a residential workforce.



The *Major Project Status* will greatly assist Cobalt Blue to raise capital for the development 23kms from the city

because it recognises the strategic importance given to this project by the Australian Government.

It is formal acknowledgement of the national economic implications of the project through its contribution to growth, productivity, government revenue, industry and regional development.

This milestone is critically important for potential overseas partners and well timed in the development journey.

We're excited! ■

Two new Directors on the Board in '22

Two new Directors have been appointed to the Foundation Broken Hill Board.

New Directors Pamela (Pam) Tucker and Rosalie (Rosie) Siemer have participated in the first meetings for 2022 and have already demonstrated how valuable they will be as part of the team to address the opportunities and challenges of the coming year.

Pam (top right) is Branch Administration Coordinator with Essential Energy and has brought 46 years valuable experience working in mining and utility industries.

She has a profound understanding and knowledge of the challenges that present to small business and an outstanding history of contribution to the community.

Rosie (bottom right) has a career-long perspective of small business in the retail sector that will provide the Board with additional insights to the challenges that face start-up businesses.

Rosie has very successfully managed substantial growth in her own business despite the vagaries of drought and Covid 19.



More about Pam & Rosie on page 2

Diary Dates:

- 8-10 April Perfect Light Film Festival
- 12 April Foundation Zoom Meeting
- 21-23 April Mundi Mundi Bush Bash
- 10 May Foundation Zoom Meeting
- 8 September Broken Heel Festival

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Donations work for Broken Hill long-term

New Board Directors (cont.)

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Rosie's clothing and accessories boutique *Sitting Bull* has defied the trend towards retail consolidation and online megastores to deal innovatively with the tough circumstances thrown at her.

Rosie was the developer of the *Our Hill is not Broken* Facebook site which has grown to more than 6000 group members and will become a key player in our social media communications.

She was recently appointed to a Small Business Reference Group advising the NSW Government and NSW Small Business Commissioner on the support needs and services for small business.

Pam meanwhile was recently appointed to the board of the Far West Local Health District.

She has always made time for local community involvement – including

Red Cross; Broken Hill Health Council; community representative on several Health related project groups; Community Round Table; Lead Reference Group; and Treasurer of the local CWA Branch.

Both Pam and Rosie will bring a youthful enthusiasm to the Foundation Board and enhance connectivity with different cohorts in the region.

They are filling positions vacated in September 2020 by former Directors Paul Edwards and Paul Keady who retired more than twelve months ago.

The Board deliberately took time to identify the best candidates for the two roles to ensure the 'best fit' with the organisation and the best value for the Broken Hill community.

Pam and Rosie have both jumped into their positions on the Board and proven we were right to take our time—and that we have the right people in the job. ■

A word from the Chairman

It is with absolute delight that I welcome our two new Directors to the Foundation Broken Hill Board after more than a year of searching for the right people.

It was never about just getting people on seats in the boardroom. The reduced Board did an excellent job in coping with the pandemic and other challenges while ensuring Broken Hill was able to develop opportunities for long term benefits.

This was achieved by Directors who not only volunteered their time, but constantly offered intellect, enthusiasm, and commitment to the city of Broken Hill and the region. Pam and Rosie are of the same calibre.

The Foundation is viewing 2022 with some excitement at promising employment opportunities and ready to welcome thousands of people to our city for fantastic events such as the St Pat's Racing Carnival, Broken Hill Film Festival, Broken Heel, Mundi Mundi Bush Bash and more in arts, environmental, historical and musical genres.

If you now 'live away' we hope you have the opportunity to visit us and participate in the spectacular events.

Please stay safe if travelling and we look forward to communicating with you again later this year. ■



**John Lynch OAM, Chairman
Foundation Broken Hill**

Diversity in health scholarships

A pool of 16 high-quality applications were received for this year's \$5000 grant under the Foundation Broken Hill-Skillshare Education Program.

Candidates came from school-leavers through to mature-age, with their studies scattered at universities across the country.

Such was the standard that we resolved to split the grant between four candidates: \$1500 for single

mum Shanique Mathews (Bachelor of Nursing extending into a Bachelor of Midwifery); 30-year-old Jade Lehman \$1500 to support her second year in a Bachelor of Nursing; single mum Brittany Frizell \$1000 to support her continued study in a Bachelor of Nursing; and 18-year-old Joshua Niarros \$1000 to commence a Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences.

All successful awardees are keen to benefit Broken Hill and the region on completion of their studies.

The Foundation—Skillshare program began in 2013, initially using income generated from funds gifted to the Foundation when Skillshare closed in 2012.

To date, more than \$40,000 has been awarded through the program. ■



**LtoR: Brittany Frizell, Joshua Niarros, Former
Skillshare Manager Pam Clarke, Jade Lehman and
Foundation Admin Assistant Willow Pascoe**

Investing in tomorrow, today

News in Brief...

Website goes live

- ◆ Our long-term project to revamp our website has reached a point of 'going live'.
- ◆ There's a couple of 'tweakings' to go but you will find all the forms you may need to do business with us, including a "Donate Now" button to take you directly to the right place and give you flexibility and various options.
- ◆ Remember, all donations are now **Tax Deductible** until June 2025. www.foundationbh.org.au

Gayle back on the ball

- ◆ Former Foundation CEO Gayle Ball has been back working with us a couple of days a week over the last two weeks during a gap in her placement schedule for her Education Degree.
- ◆ Gayle has a schedule to work with us when she can and is providing excellent support to Travis and Willow.
- ◆ Gayle is very much enjoying her interaction with her students and staff and already has an offer for permanent employment when her degree is fully completed.

Loans finalising

- ◆ A couple of our interest-free loans to small businesses have finalised in recent weeks and there are others very close.
- ◆ It's pleasing in that it confirms they were the right businesses to support and also because it means that funding can be recycled. If you're thinking of establishing or expanding your business, check our website or give us a call. ■

Big push for school vouchers

Almost 90% of the \$30,000 worth of vouchers available locally in the 2022 FRRR Back to School Program have already been distributed.

Foundation Broken Hill's Administration Assistant Willow Pascoe has been frenetically working to keep pace with the high level demand in among usual duties because this year the vouchers needed to be printed in-house, along with a form that tracks eligibility.

The program provides a \$50 voucher per child in disadvantaged families to be spent on essential school requirements at specified local outlets and is regulated through identification management. This is the 18th consecutive year the Broken Hill Foundation has participated in the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) back to school voucher program (since inception).



Administration Assistant Willow Pascoe with a handful of vouchers still remaining

The cumulative impact on the local economy has amounted to almost \$400,000 and has supported more than 7000 students.

This year distribution has been assisted by Alma (south) and North Public Schools, the Wilcannia Central Primary School, Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation and Mission Australia Broken Hill.

The program improves access to education for young people who may otherwise feel excluded. ■

CUC Graduation Ceremony 2022

Foundation Broken Hill was a proud sponsor of this year's Country Universities Centre (CUC) Far West graduation ceremony.

We're also very proud of our Director Karren Howe's graduation with a Master in Business Administration.

Karren is the Foundation's Company Secretary and also our interim Treasurer.

The CUC Far West was established to empower regional students to fulfill



Foundation Director Chris Dougherty with MBA graduate Foundation Director Karren Howe



90% of recent CUC graduates have gained or maintained employment in the Far West Region

their potential and to achieve their goals without the need to relocate. Since 2018, the Centre has supported 300 Far West students with social connectivity, high-speed internet, technology and general academic support.

Well done all and congratulations to all graduates. ■

Broken Hill worm recognised as unique

Well it wouldn't have been on too many local Christmas wish-lists but, for Foundation Broken Hill Director Lindy Molesworth, the end of 2021 had a nice gift—the rare honour of having an earthworm named after her.

The giant worm (pictured right) was previously thought not to have existed in this part of Australia due

to low rainfall but Lindy's research and perseverance has proven otherwise.

In the latest *Records of the Australian Museum* publication the worm was described and identified as a new genus and species. The name reflects its semi-arid location as well as acknowledging Lindy's

Aridulodrilus molesworthae

contribution.

The publication is peer reviewed and the seven-page article (well referenced by academic notables)

paid tribute to the fact Lindy's find distinguished it from all other Australian genera.

The worm, which is found near

Broken Hill, is rarely seen as it only comes to the surface in darkness immediately following heavy rain.

Lindy is hopeful that the scientific recognition will assist in getting protective measures in place to ensure the survival of this localised species. ■



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 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 Interim 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. The office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Our website at www.foundationbh.org.au provides more information.