MATT

Role: Mining Manager

Company: New Hope Group

Home location: Highfields (Toowoomba)

Work location: New Acland Coal

How long have you worked in the resources industry?

I started in the resources industry in 1989 as a surveyor in a small mine in NSW. I progressed through engineering in drill and blast and pit planning, moving into production and working my way through the ranks before moving to Queensland in 2023 with New Acland Coal.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

My role touches a lot of the operation and being able to provide some guidance through my experiences provides a lot of satisfaction.

What's something people wouldn't expect about your role?

Definitely the amount of community involvement we have. We sponsor everything from school awards to men's sheds and local sporting clubs. It's great to see our local communities benefit in so many ways.

Where do you live and what do you love about your community?

I live in Highfields, a suburb of Toowoomba. The Highfields community, in particular the Highfields Eagles Rugby League Club are fantastic. I volunteer there with a genuinely great bunch of people. The club culture is next level.

What drew you to the industry and what's kept you here?

Initially I was placed as a fill in for people who were on leave but quickly saw the opportunity and diversity mining offers. The many disciplines offered in mining operations, maintenance, preparation plants, technical, professional, trade, supervisory – the list is endless.

What does a typical day look like?

In mining there isn't a blue print for each day. There is always the base load of budgeting, forecasting production, and cost control but largely its being in front of the game and anticipating the hurdles for the mining operation years in advance.

Why do you think the resources sector matters to Queensland?

The resources sector offers Queensland communities security in jobs, financial wellbeing and community stability. Small towns surrounding our mine directly benefit from our employees who live local and more broadly, Toowoomba has a large number of FIFO workers who bring that income back to the region. The secondary revenue stream of companies who work directly for the resources sector is enormous, and in some ways outstrips the mining industry itself.

What are you passionate about inside or outside of work?

In my day job I'm passionate about providing career development and pathways opportunities for the team, and helping them perform at the highest levels. Out of work, helping out where I can with the Highfields Eagles, run some water, strap an ankle or help out with a coaching drill, I love being involved with them.

What's something you're proud of professionally or personally?

Professionally, working with a team which returned New Acland Coal back to full production safely. Doubling our team size which is overwhelmingly made up of people who live within 50km of the mine, and providing great work/life balance and revenue which stays in the communities surrounding New Acland Mine. Personally, taking myself out of my comfort zone within the Hunter Valley and moving 800km North, and loving it!

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