

**Back then**

In 2010, International Women's Day was celebrated in part by turning the "Syndicate of Seven" statues into certain Broken Hill women who had contributed to the city.



Icecream or two, don't mind if I do

Keanu and Eli Johnson with cousin Emmy Matten enjoying an ice cream at Sturt Park in the first week of school holidays. School students everywhere get to enjoy another week off school. There are lots of activities for kids; with the YMCA, PCYC, Aquatic Centre, Library and parks all available to keep them busy.

PICTURE: Emily Roberts

# Explorer goes for gold

By Kara de Groot

A small company is starting to make some big waves in the goldfields near Tibooburra.

Awati Resources is a relatively young company that currently holds nine exploration licences and one exploration licence application for the 'Tibooburra Project', covering just over 1,000 square kilometers in the Albert Goldfield south of Tibooburra.

In late 2016 exploratory drilling commenced at five different prospects in the licence, with three of the sites promising major gold deposits.

The company is now looking to raise several million dollars to continue exploration programs to prove the model they've created, according to Awati Resources corporate director Robert Hodby.

"There's a lot of gold up there which solo prospectors are finding, alluvial gold, but what we're doing is identifying what we believe is the source of all that gold using geophysical techniques and work, that the guys out doing metal detecting can't get to," Mr Hodby said.

"Our tenement covers the best part of the gold source, at the top and bottom are the alluvial goldfields and in the middle that gault foes undercover so in the coming weeks we'll undertake a drill program to hopefully intersect that gold-bearing fault that can't be seen above ground," he said.

"Exploration work has been undertaken on pastoral grounds so we're very cognisant of the fact we've got to work with local landholders and other

interest groups to do things in a way that won't disturb or impact their lives.

"This is an opportunity too though, to create more jobs in the area and with careful planning even a tourist industry to augment pastoralists' income."

Executive director Noel Archer said there had been a number of concerns from land owners about the impact a mining operation would have on grazing activities among others.

He said Awati is looking for ways to help graziers benefit from the company's operations.

"We hope that these changes will be positive for most people and as part of the long-term approach the company will actively look for way to ensure that this is the case," he said.

"The company is keen to have local people, particularly pastoral companies, as shareholders with the aim of continuing, longer-term, to be as local a company as possible."

At this stage the company isn't sure what type of mining operation will be the outcome - it all depends on the depth of the gold deposits.

Mr Hodby said if the deposits are located less than 30m underground it will be an open cut mine, but if it's at a greater depth underground mining will be required.

He said employment numbers are also unknown at this stage, until the full extent of the deposit is known.

"What we know is it will be a great boon for the area if we have some discoveries and there's an opportunity to bring some life back into the area with more jobs on a permanent basis."

“In the coming weeks we’ll undertake a drill program to hopefully intersect that gold”

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