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# West Wyalong Advocate

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TODAY

*'There's gold in them there hills'*

## More mining on the horizon?

Recent developments surrounding a new copper-gold project near West Wyalong have been met with excitement by Bland Shire Council.

Argent Minerals last week announced to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) promising results of an airborne magnetic survey of its West Wyalong Project, which Managing Director, David Busch believes has the potential to become a "major discovery".

Argent has confirmed that the latest data confirmed a potential porphyry copper-gold target of significant size.

Shareholders were told the interpreted dimensions of the magnetic anomaly span approximately 1.4 kilometres in the north-south direction and 800 metres from east to west, extending to depth from 200 metres.

"This is a very exciting development for the West Wyalong Project, placing it on the map as a sizeable Australian porphyry copper-gold target," said Mr Busch.

"If it is connected to the same structure as our Narragudgil Prospect two kilometres to the south east as we believe it to be, we may have identified the potential for a major discovery in this rich, fertile area which has produced some of Australia's best copper-gold deposits," Mr Busch added.

The announcement from Argent came just days after a resolution from Bland Shire Council to inject half of the untied mining rates into a special reserve for economic development initiatives.

"Bland Shire is a great place to do business in, given our ideal location and excellent infrastructure," Mayor Neil Pokoney said.

"Council has a renewed commitment to strengthening the economic base of the Shire and is committing more and more resources towards encouraging new enterprises to come to town.

"More businesses mean more jobs - this is our goal."

While acknowledging there is considerable further investigation required before any commitment for ground works is made, Mayor Pokoney described the announcement from Argent Minerals as more encouraging news for the Bland Shire's brightening long term future.

"We continue to be hopeful that the positive announcements made by Argent Minerals regarding this development will translate into even more development coming to our Shire.

"There is obviously a long way to go before



## Club's future on the agenda

The West Wyalong Bowling Club has called an emergency extraordinary general meeting to try and address serious issues which they say could see the Club close in the near future.

According to vice-president Archie Boneham, dramatic changes need to occur at the Club if they want to stay open.

"If we keep going the way we are, we would be (facing closure)," Mr Boneham said.

"We are looking at a few things, but we have to get the general committee and the members to support them.

"We don't want to get into the situation where things are going that bad that you slam the doors shut...we need to get our members together and tell them we need their support."

During winter, turnout at the Bowling Club has been down according to Mr Boneham, which is affecting the club's bottom line.

"They (the members) can make up their mind if they want to take any drastic action," Mr Boneham said.

The meeting will be held tonight (Tuesday, July 29) at 7pm at the Bowling Club.

we will see any actual mining in the proposed area however this announcement sounds very encouraging."

Argent has advised shareholders that further testing will be conducted on the area as a priority.

While strongly encouraged by the recent survey results, Mayor Pokoney said a long road lay ahead before mining could potentially commence in the area, including an extensive community consultation process.

"With the many compliances required to mine these days, this project will be subject to stringent conditions and a great deal of

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BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL  
west wyalong

Business and Community Guide

2014

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# More mining on the horizon?

Continued from Page 1

community consultation and negotiation will be required," he said.

"I would also expect significant environmental and heritage studies will need to be completed and submitted to the State Government's Planning Department."

Located near Yiddah in the Bland Shire, the West Wyalong Project is a joint venture between Argent Minerals (which has a 51 per cent interest) and Golden Cross Resources (49 per cent).

The news comes at an exciting time for the local district who, only last week, rejoiced the approval of Barrick Gold's application for an extension of their Cowal operations.

### Stringent conditions for Barrick

Meanwhile the extension approval for the Barrick Cowal Gold Mine has come with some stringent conditions to ensure the local community and environment are adequately protected.

Department of Planning and Environment Executive Director Chris Wilson, who approved the five-year extension last Wednesday more than 12 months after the application was lodged, said the conditions include a requirement to comply with strict noise and air quality criteria, a 230 hectare extension to the biodiversity offsets for the mine and a range of additional environmental management measures that reflect contemporary standards for large-scale mines in NSW.

These include that Barrick may only carry out

mining operations until December 31, 2024 and are required to rehabilitate the site and perform additional undertakings to the satisfaction of the appropriate Department.

Barrick may also not process more than 7.5 million tonnes of ore on site in any calendar year and shall comply with the maximum heights as set out in the consent.

Additionally, the approval includes that Barrick shall not carry out any construction work on the Tailings Storage Facility embankments outside of the hours of 7am to 6pm.

"The extension involves increasing the area and depth of the existing open-cut pit at the mine, while continuing the existing maximum production limit for the next five years," said Mr Wilson.

Mr Wilson also said the extension will allow Barrick Limited to recover an additional 700,000 ounces of gold and provide a significant boost to the regional and state economies.

"The Cowal Gold Mine is a major employer in the region and the three local councils (Bland, Forbes and Lachlan) strongly supported the extension," he said.

Of the 81 public submissions received during the public exhibition of the proposal in late 2013, 72 were in favour, primarily on the grounds of employment opportunities and economic benefits.

Mr Wilson said he understood the community had raised concerns about the length of the assessment process, but said it was important for the Department to carefully consider all of the potential impacts of the project before making its final determination.

The full extension approval can be found at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/>

## 'Flying' changes to banner policy

The most talked about banner policy in NSW reared its head again when Bland Shire Council made changes to its policy at the July meeting to clear ambiguities in its wording.

The previous policy stated the Main Street banner could be used only for events Council "directly" supported.

Council staff interpreted "directly" to mean events which Council gave financial support to, however there was discussion among Councillors as to whether this should be broader.

The reworked policy now involves much clearer guidelines for staff.

It now reads, "the Main Street banner may be utilised by Bland Shire Council to promote community events the Shire has identified through its Community Strategic Plan or events of regional or state significance".

Councillors added a number of clauses for further clarification.

For events identified as significant, money will be taken from the Tourism Events budget to fund inserts for the banner.

For any other local event an application can now be made through the Strengthening Communities Grant funding to cover the cost.

Council also decided to give General Manager Ray Smith the discretion to decide if an event is considered as regional, state or local.

Cr Peter Grellman said it was important the

community understand the changes are just minor.

"We are only fiddling at the edges of the policy and if anyone has a problem with that, they can come to us at Council and address it," he said.

## Farmer's market to fill a void

A new farmer's market is coming to McCann Park this August with organisers hoping the event will become a monthly item on the West Wyalong calendar.

Organiser Rhonda Humphries said the farmer's market is being set up with Council's assistance. "Anybody that makes things like arts and crafts and people who grow things are welcome," Ms Humphries said.

"Things like candles or someone who makes cakes... local businesses are also welcome to have a store if they would like."

Ms Humphries said there was currently no avenue for people to sell their small arts and crafts in the community and this farmer's market would help address that.

"We had the Bland Bizarre here which was really good for local craft people and when it closed we lost the outlet for people who make things," she said.

"We have the support of Council... people can go to them for application forms or call 0400 531 604."

The market is also going to raise funds for local community organisations according to Ms Humphries.


The West Wyalong Show Society will be running a barbecue on the first day to raise money for this year's Show.

Other community organisations who would like to raise money through the farmer's market are asked to register their interest by calling the above phone number.

## West Wyalong Advocate


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