

# GUNNING WIND FARM

Welcome to the 18th edition of the Gunning Wind Farm Newsletter. This newsletter provides information and updates about the project. The Gunning Wind Farm is located approximately 15kms north-east of Gunning.

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## Wind Farm Update

It's been an interesting couple of months at the Gunning Wind Farm since NSW went into lockdown in the middle of this year.

Many of our lives were put on hold during this period, however the demand for energy does not stop and so the Gunning Wind Farm was business as usual to ensure the turbines kept spinning.

The COVID19 lockdowns have brought challenges to the operations of the wind farm. The new government rules and restrictions impacted the availability of people and contractors that would usually travel to and from the wind farm. Many of the contractors that work on our Gunning Wind Farm are Sydney-based and were no longer able to travel to the wind farm. This has meant some routine and planned works had to be postponed.

Additionally, our Gunning Wind Farm site manager and sole ACCIONA Energía representative in NSW, Craig Simon, has not had the support of any Melbourne or Brisbane staff at the Wind Farm because of the interstate border restrictions. During this time, Craig has had some staff changes with turbine technicians from Australian Wind Services, and has spent much of this period training new technicians who are recent recruits to the renewable energy industry.

The lack of availability of staff and contractors has made it really important that staff at the wind farm maintain safety and hygiene protocols to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Along with routine hand-washing and mask-wearing, the technicians have adopted new ways of doing things, including only sending one person up the turbine lift at a time instead of two.

Craig has managed exceptionally well, maintaining the spirits of himself and the turbine technicians during this time. The team has worked closely together, supporting and looking after each other, and they are excited that life at the wind farm is beginning to return back to normal.

We also have continued to support our local community during this time with ongoing community sponsorships and funding for local projects and programs. These community projects and programs are so important to the community, now more than ever.

We hope you are all as excited as we are to see NSW beginning to open up again and enjoy the newsletter update!

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.accionacom.au/gunning](http://www.accionacom.au/gunning)



Winter morning at the wind farm

# 2021 Scholarship Recipient

Thomas Bell is the recipient of the 2021 scholarship for Gunning Wind Farm. Thomas stood out to ACCIONA Energía for his interest in international organisations and eagerness to find a career in creating solutions to global issues. Recently we asked Thomas some questions about his career goals and learned about how the scholarship has directly benefited him.

**What do you want to do in your career?**  
*I would like to pursue a career in international relations and diplomacy. I seek to gain a position in an international institution addressing pressing problems faced by Australia and the global community.*

**What does climate change and renewable energy mean to you?** *I see climate change as posing both a great threat, and an important opportunity to both Australia and the international community. The dangers posed by climate change are immense, however we can utilise such threats to foster innovation and cooperation worldwide. I believe renewable energy will become vital in the global attempt to arrest climate change and protect our future.*

**How has this funding benefited you?** *The funding which ACCIONA Energía has provided for me has allowed me to reduce my working hours, purchase required textbooks and other materials for my course, and focus on studying throughout my first year at university.*



Thomas Bell

**ARE YOU GOING TO UNIVERSITY OR TAFE IN 2022?**

**You can apply for a \$5,000 scholarship to support your transition to tertiary studies.** ACCIONA's Gunning Wind Farm Scholarship Program is open to students who recently finished high school in the Upper Lachlan Shire Council area and want to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths) courses.

Applications will open in January 2021 and close in March 2022. To register your interest send an email to [AEO.sponsorship@acciona.com.au](mailto:AEO.sponsorship@acciona.com.au) and you will be notified when the application period opens.

# Snow at the Wind Farm

In August this year the wind farm was transformed into a winter wonderland when a thin layer of snow dusted the grass beneath the turbines. It was frosty conditions for our turbine technicians who continued work as per usual to keep the wind farm running. It was a fantastic sight to see!



Snow at Gunning



# 2021 Funding for Community Projects

ACCIONA Energía established the Gunning Wind Farm Community Sponsorship fund in 2011 and has contributed over \$120,000 towards community and education programs. The sponsorship program will continue for the operational life of the Wind Farm.

In 2021 we received a wide range of applications for local projects and events across the Gunning, Goulburn, Breadalbane and Crookwell communities.

This year's successful applicants were:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Gunning District Health Services	New Defibrillators	\$5,000
Gunning PA&I	Gunning Glitz & Glamour Ball	\$1,350
Goulburn Cycle Club	Annual Cycle Event	\$2,500
Gunning Pony Club	Upcycle and Repurpose It Project	\$1,150
TOTAL		\$10,000

We would like to congratulate all the successful applicants and thank all the organisations that took the time to submit an application. Applications for the next sponsorship program will open in the first quarter of 2022.

is managed by the Community Benefits Advisory Group. The CBF supports services, events and projects which directly benefit the communities in the immediate vicinity of the Gunning Wind Farm.

In addition to the sponsorship fund, the Gunning Wind Farm also provides funds via the Community Benefits Fund (CBF). This fund

This year, the following organisations have been assisted through the CBF:

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Riding for the Disabled	Relocation of Equine Complex	\$10,000
Gunning District Association	Shade Sail at Barbour Park	\$10,600
TOTAL		\$20,600



Defibrillator at the Courthouse Building

The funding provided to the Gunning District and Health Services was used to purchase two new defibrillators for the Gunning community. One of the defibrillators replaced the current older model defibrillator that is located at the Gunning Courthouse Building.

The second defibrillator was purchased so that Gunning had access to a second defibrillator. This new defibrillator is located at the Gunning District and Health Services' second office in Warrataw Street, at the Tony Foley Memorial Centre.

The older model defibrillator that was replaced was given to the Gunning Early Learning Centre as they required a defibrillator for their accreditation purposes.

The Gunning District and Health Services recently thanked us for our funding and acknowledged that these necessary improvements could not have been done without the financial assistance of ACCIONA Energía.

We thank the Gunning District and Health Service for participating in our sponsorship program, and for the work they do supporting the Gunning community.



New defibrillator

# Business as Unusual at ACCIONA Energía

## Sustainable Development Goals

ACCIONA Energía is committed to contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Here are some of the ways we contribute:

**#SDG8** - The world is facing a slowing of global economic growth and will face the worst economic recession since the great depression caused by the COVID19 pandemic. At ACCIONA Energía, our projects help combat this slowed economic growth by creating more jobs. Our new MacIntyre wind farm in Queensland will create approximately 500 direct jobs during construction and a further 20-30 operations jobs during the entire life cycle of the project. It is also estimated that this project will contribute 1,737 million AUD to Australia's GDP.

**#SDG9** - At ACCIONA Energía we believe in innovation, and that's why we are investing in the Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Tech-Transition Centre (APRETC), which will be built in Ballarat at Federation University Australia. The training centre is the first in Australia to have a simulated wind turbine and offer the Global Wind Organisation basic safety training. This state-of-the-art training centre will contribute to a better skilled and more innovative workforce in our renewable energy industry. <https://bit.ly/363T9hn>

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**CREATING MEANINGFUL WORK**

Commencing construction in 2021, our Macintyre wind farm is expected to create approximately 500 direct jobs during construction and a further 20-30 operations jobs during the entire life cycle of the project.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

#SDG8

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

ACCIONA supports the growth of an innovative renewable energy workforce by investing in a state-of-the-art renewable energy training facility called APRETC (Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre)

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

#SDG9

**MICHELLE HOLMES**  
Senior Stakeholder and Community Liaison

## Women in Renewables

ACCIONA proudly supports a diverse working community. This is why our Senior Stakeholder and Community Liaison Michelle Holmes chooses to work in renewables:

"I have been working in the Stakeholder Relations and Community Development area for many years and it was a natural progression into renewables. I have an interest in protecting the environment and doing my bit to help make the world a better place. My job allows me to continue the work I enjoy – engaging with people in communities, as well as being part of projects that are making a valuable difference to people's quality of life."

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**CONTACT US**

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number 1800 283 550 or email [AEO.sponsorship@acciona.com.au](mailto:AEO.sponsorship@acciona.com.au)

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