

COSTERFIELD COMMUNITY CHRONICLES



Stevie Child, Undergraduate Mining Engineer (right), was named Exceptional Young Woman in Resources at the Victorian Women in Resources Awards. Pictured with Costerfield General Manager, Adam Self. (Image: Minerals Council of Australia)

Site News

Exceptional Young Woman in Resources

We're delighted to announce that Stevie Child, Costerfield Undergraduate Mining Engineer, was recently recognised in the Victorian Women in Resources Awards, hosted by the Minerals Council of Australia.

Stevie was named **Exceptional Young Woman in Resources** — an award for a woman aged 30 or under who has demonstrated outstanding promise in Victoria's resources sector.

At just 18 years old, Stevie joined Costerfield Operations for a trainee gap year, before commencing a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) degree at Federation University. While studying full-time, Stevie now works part-time with our tech services team.



Stevie with some of the Costerfield Operations team (L to R): Daniel Fitzpatrick (Underground Manager), Nick Boardman (Underground Superintendent), Dylan Goldhahn (Technical Services Superintendent), Stevie Child, Sonja Gill Lobos (HR Manager), Adam Self (General Manager).

Still only 21, Stevie has developed specific expertise in drill and blast (covering leave for the operations engineers), improved systems for most operational engineering tasks, and completed a three-month underground rotation. She is also a member of Costerfield's Emergency Response Team and our schools-liaison team.

Presented at the Parliament House of Victoria on Wednesday 3 June in Melbourne, the Victorian

Women in Resources Awards recognise professional success, leadership, and advocacy of women working in the Victorian resources sector. They aim to provide a platform for women to be role models and encourage more women into the mining industry.

Victorian award winners will advance as finalists at the 2026 Women in Resources National Awards hosted by the Minerals Council of Australia in September.

Congratulations, Stevie!

The road ahead at Alkane Costerfield

Members of the Costerfield community may have noticed an increase in our activities over the past six months or so. Exploration, in particular, has expanded to support growth of our mineral resources farther ahead of production.

We are also planning several projects to upgrade some of our equipment and infrastructure to sustain a longer mine life. The Alkane Board has a long-term strategy for success, and the company is investing in the potential of Costerfield Operations.

This doesn't mean the operation will grow visibly bigger at the surface — at least, not dramatically so. It means we are planning farther ahead and laying foundations for sustainable growth that will provide economic confidence for the company, job security for our employees, and ongoing investment in the local community.

So, what does the next 18 months look like?

Exploration

Exploration activities will focus on increasing confidence in existing resources (such as Kendall, Brunswick South, True Blue), expanding the resource envelopes, and discovering new orebodies nearby.

In parallel, we've commenced a 12-month exploration program at Nagambie Mine (see separate article for details). Depending on the results, drilling may continue with a view to future development via a joint venture with Nagambie Resources.

Mining & development

We'll continue mining at our existing underground areas; some of this will involve extracting ore left behind over the years (it being more economic to mine at the current high gold prices).

It will take an estimated four years to mine the current resources within our mining licence.

This includes development of the Brunswick South deposit, located approximately 450m south of the Brunswick processing plant (see separate article for more information).

In time, we hope to develop the True Blue deposit, which lies outside our current mining licence. Over the next couple of years, we'll assess the potential for an underground mine, accessed from our current workings. If it progresses, this development will involve an extensive approval and community consultation process. We'll communicate with the community as permit applications progress.

Note that our underground operations use an uncommon narrow-vein long-hole stoping method (and associated bespoke equipment) to extract the ore — made possible by the narrow veins of high-grade ore. This means our stopes (where we extract the ore) are very narrow compared to most other gold mines.

Processing

We plan to marginally increase the capacity of the processing plant by crushing the rocks to a finer size before processing. We're planning to gradually ramp up over the next three years to reach around 160kt per year (~14% increase). This won't affect the footprint of the plant.

Infrastructure upgrades

To support this growth and extended mine life, we plan to upgrade some of the mine and service infrastructure. This will include refurbishing the carparks and upgrading the surface buildings. We're currently investigating approval pathways.

Rehabilitation and closure of tailings storage facilities

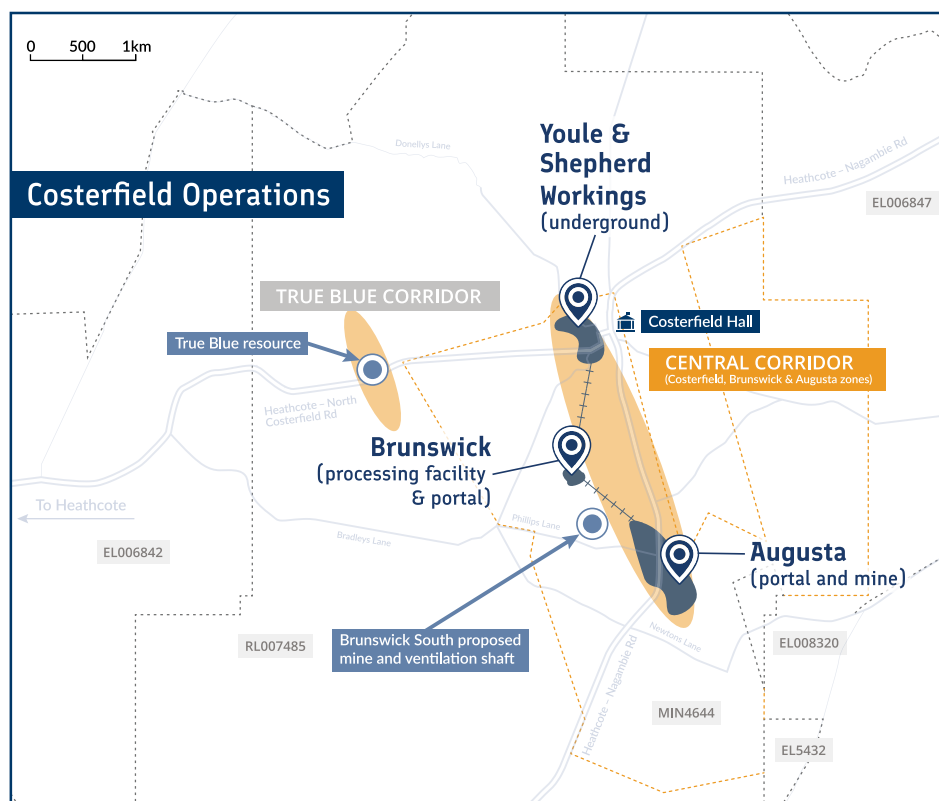
We are currently developing plans for closure and rehabilitation of the Brunswick and Bombay tailings storage facilities. This will involve the removal of all plant and equipment, along with contour ripping, topsoiling and seeding. We are considering the re-treatment of tailings as part of this process, meaning the current dam/s would diminish in size.

Our workforce is growing

To support Costerfield Operations' long-term growth strategy, our workforce will grow by approximately 90 people over the coming year. Most of these new employees will be underground crew — spread across four shifts (day/night, alternating weeks). This means we'll be able to work in up to four different mining locations simultaneously.

The balance of new positions will be spread over multiple areas to support the expanded exploration and mining activities. Advertising and recruitment will start in July.

As the year progresses, there may be a noticeable increase in road traffic, particularly during shift changes twice a day. We will work with all our employees to promote road safety and awareness that we are sharing roads with the community.



Costerfield Mine and surrounds

New development at Brunswick South

Alkane Costerfield is preparing to mine underground at the Brunswick South deposit, which lies within our mining licence approximately 450m south of the Brunswick mine and processing plant.

We propose to access the deposit via an underground drive extending from the main drive between the Augusta and Brunswick mines. This will involve extending the existing underground exploration drive towards the deposit. We hope to be mining ore in the first half of 2027.

Ventilation shaft

The main surface disturbance will be a ventilation shaft in a paddock approximately 120m north of Phillips Lane, west of the Heathcote-Nagambie Road. We are currently seeking approval to construct this 3.5m diameter vertical shaft, which will extend 250m down to the underground workings, where primary exhaust fans will be located to minimise surface infrastructure and noise.

At the surface, a concrete plinth will support a 4m high evase (flared 'chimney') painted to blend-in to the surroundings. The shaft site will be fenced and barricaded to manage safety for the community and wildlife.

Construction of the ventilation shaft is expected to occur during Q3-Q4 2026, using local contractors, where possible.

New Manager for Health, Safety, Environment and Community

Hayley Fell has been appointed HSEC (Health, Safety, Environment and Community) Manager at Alkane Costerfield.

A resident of Heathcote for more than 18 years, Hayley first joined Costerfield Operations in 2011 and took on the role of Environment and Community Officer in 2017. While working full-time with us, Hayley also completed a fulltime Bachelor of Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning at Latrobe University, Bendigo.

After four years in a Victorian Government planning role, Hayley returned to Costerfield Operations in October 2025 in the role of HSEC Superintendent. Please join us in congratulating Hayley on her elevation to the important role of HSEC Manager.

Hayley succeeds Ross Laity, who is moving on to new opportunities. We thank him for driving our achievements in HSEC over nearly 14 years and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Costerfield Operations also welcomes Andrew Koster, who joined in April as our new Environmental Officer.



New Manager for Health, Safety, Environment and Community, Hayley Fell

Andrew has a background in environmental management and groundwater and was previously a consultant at engineering and services firm WSP, specialising in contaminated land and groundwater management.

Fun Fast Facts about Hayley



Favourite beverage: Currently ginger tea



Favourite book/genre: Historical fiction and non-fiction — especially the classics *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett and *Papillon* by Henri Charriere.



In my free time: I am trying to turn my garden into a green oasis with trees, flowers and vines growing in every available space.

Exploration Update

Drilling at True Blue and Brunswick South

To support the extension of mine life, exploration drilling has increased at True Blue and Brunswick South. We now have six surface diamond core drill rigs operating across the two locations.

Two of these (at Brunswick South) are operating 24/7 in a fully contained sound-attenuation shed, surrounded by hay bales, that minimises noise to the surrounding areas. In addition to ongoing sound monitoring at our established locations, we've deployed a new mobile monitor to record noise in neighbours' homes on a rotating basis.

The remaining four drill rigs operate Monday to Friday on dayshift in the True Blue area.

These drilling programs aim to increase confidence in existing resources and extend the resource envelope in advance of development.

Underground, four more drill rigs have been operating, focusing on near-mine target areas (such as Kendall and Brunswick South) and production drilling.

Drilling at Nagambie Mine

Under an “earn-in” agreement* with Nagambie Resources, Alkane Costerfield has commenced exploration drilling at the historical Nagambie Mine, approximately 40km northeast of Costerfield.

The tenements host a high-grade antimony and gold mineral resource (of similar geology to Costerfield), defined by Nagambie Resources in 2024, beneath the Nagambie West Pit.

Our exploration program aims to extend the mineral resource envelope and increase confidence in the existing inferred mineral resource estimate.

At this stage, we plan to have two diamond drill rigs positioned around Nagambie West Pit until next April. One drill rig will operate 24/7 inside an acoustic shed; the other operates from 7am to 6pm daily.

*About the earn-in agreement

Alkane Costerfield and Nagambie Resources (NAG) have entered into an earn-in joint venture agreement over Nagambie’s Mining Licence MIN 5412 and Exploration Licence EL 5511. These tenements cover an area of approximately 22km² surrounding the historical Nagambie open pits.

Under the agreement, Alkane will undertake and fund exploration, evaluation activities and related studies over these tenements for an assessment period of 12 months, with the view to earning a major interest and forming a joint venture with Nagambie to potentially develop the project. (Any decision to develop would be dependent on the results of years of exploration.)

Nagambie Resources defined an antimony-gold Inferred mineral resource in April 2024 and updated it (for gold and antimony prices) in November 2024. Details of the agreement were summarised in the NAG ASX Announcement of 9 April 2026.

Community News

Community sponsorships

The Costerfield Sponsorship Committee awarded several sponsorship grants over the past four months.

Congratulations to the following community organisations and events:

- Heathcote Football under 10s and 12s for first aid and safety equipment (see image)
- Heathcote Men’s Shed for permitting to extend their services to the community
- Heathcote Film Festival towards their film festival
- Heathcote Artists for their 20th celebration and event
- Heathcote U3A for a defibrillator
- Graytown Community Group for a new fridge
- Heathcote Golf Club for disabled toilet facilities
- Heathcote Show Society for kids activities at the local show

We also sponsored the Puxley team for the Breast Cancer box rally.

Not-for-profit community projects and organisations that have demonstrable benefits for the local

community are invited to apply for the sponsorship program. To apply, fill out the form on the Alkane website (Costerfield Community Hub). Applications for the next round open in September.

<https://alkres.com/costerfield-sponsorship>



Costerfield Operations funded health and safety equipment for the Heathcote Football under 10s and 12s teams.

Career pathways

In recent months, Costerfield Operations hosted year-10 student visits from St Augustine's College in Kyabram and Weeroona College in Bendigo. The site visits were organised in partnership with Minerals Council of Australia and were designed to introduce secondary school students to a prospective career in mining.

The site visits included an information session and site tour incorporating key aboveground mine areas – such as the portal entry, machinery area and workshop, core shed and processing plant.

So far this year, we've also fielded a booth at four careers expos for secondary students: the Girls in STEM Expo (also for primary students) and Careers Expo in Melton, and the Catholic Careers Expo and Tomorrow Bound Careers Expo in Bendigo. At these events, students talked to members of the Costerfield Operations team about their jobs and could handle show and tell items like rocks and drill bits.



Rose and Amelia from Costerfield Operations' exploration team at the Girls in STEM Expo.

Dust and noise management

To help manage dust accumulation on the Heathcote – Nagambie Road, we've applied to VicRoads for a licence to sweep the road and suck up the dust. We propose to undertake this on a quarterly basis between the Brunswick and Augusta site access roads. We also use environmentally friendly dust suppression additives in the water trucks used on site.

To gain understanding of the increased noise experienced by some neighbours, we've purchased a mobile sound monitor to make its way between neighbours' homes. It was deployed in its first home on 11 June and will remain there for a time before moving on. We will record sound readings remotely.

Introducing Alkane's new logo



Following the merger with Mandalay Resources, Alkane has adopted a new logo for the enlarged company's progression into an exciting new era.

The logo design features the letter A for Alkane, along with a representation of stacked gold bars that link to the company's core business as a gold producer. It's based on a winning concept created by Jade Buckman (HSEC Manager, Tomingley Operations), after a company-wide competition.

How to find out more

Alkane website

 alkres.com
alkres.com/community-hub

Subscribe to this newsletter

 alkres.com/subscribe

Follow our social channels

 (Formerly Twitter)
[@AlkaneResources](https://twitter.com/AlkaneResources)

 LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/alkane-resources-ltd

Talk to us directly

 Community Information Line
costerfield-community@alkres.com

Reception: (03) 5431 0400
(Message bank available 24 hours)

Community Advisor: 0417 055 080