

Emerald's Gavin shares his tale of good fortune



MINING NEWS

EMERALD'S Gavin Littleboy is set to appear in a statewide television series to share his story of breaking into the booming resource sector at age 45.

Gavin secured his job after taking part in a Skilling Queenslanders for Work jobs project which was run by The Salvation Army Employment Plus to prepare jobseekers to fill shortages in the mines.

He will soon appear in a series dedicated to the individuals who have found success after taking part in Queensland Government-funded jobs projects.

When he thinks back on how far he has come, Gavin says he still wonders at his good fortune.

"I used to only have a casual job as a support worker. I still pinch



BIG ROLE: Emerald's Gavin Littleboy on site at Golding Blackwater Coal Mine.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

myself every now and then at how I've landed on my feet," he said.

The Salvation Army's Kirrilee Trist said the project, supported by State and Federal governments and Golding Contractors, gave participants intensive life skills assistance and mine simulator training.

"Participants worked incredibly hard during

a series of training courses that covered everything from on-the-job training with Golding at the Blackwater Coal Mine to healthy eating, defensive driving courses, senior first aid and haul truck training," Ms Trist said.

Of the 11 participants who finished the course, eight are now working - five of them with Golding.

Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development Andrew Fraser said Queensland was in need of many more skilled workers to keep our economy moving forward. Gavin will join many other Queenslanders from across the state who will tell the stories of their experiences in the Channel Nine television series.