NAIDOC Week celebrations
1 million hours LTI free
Continuing the focus on managing lead
Chilean Students experience the outback
Dear friends and colleagues,

It is pleasing to see so many young students gaining exposure to the mining industry and excelling in their chosen careers. Our north Queensland operations have been busy hosting graduate student site visits during July and we look forward to welcoming them to our operations next year. We also look forward to receiving applications for our 2009/2010 vacation student program.

In recent months, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines has facilitated several successful work experience programs on site for international, state-wide and local students. These included the Chilean Student Technical Scholarship Program and the annual QMEA Engineering camp. More information on these programs is available on pages eight and 18.

Highlights from our north Queensland operations this month include the successful completion of Stage 6 of Ernest Henry Mining’s Open Pit project, Community Information Sessions held in Townsville, Mount Isa and Bowen, and the development of further lead safety initiatives at our Mount Isa operations.

On 8 July at our Mount Isa Community Information Session, we announced the results of Phase One (Land) of the Lead Pathways Study undertaken by independent and world renowned toxicologist Associate Professor Barry Noller. Accompanying this edition of *Mine to Market* you will find enclosed a summary of the report *Study of Heavy Metals and Metalloids in the Leichhardt River and Surrounding Locations* as part of Phase One (Land) of the Lead Pathways study. The full report is also available at www.xstrata.com/operation/mountisa/publications.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2009, we are pleased to be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Copper Refinery in Townsville with a family fun day in September, and supporting the Xstrata Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo in August.

In August we look forward to bringing you a supplementary feature celebrating our 85th Anniversary.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of safety in our workplace. It is essential that we keep safety as our main focus throughout the second half of 2009 and ensure we each take ownership and responsibility in providing a safe and healthy workplace for ourselves and our colleagues. Remember, safety starts and stops with you.
Mining completed in Stage 6 of EHM’s open pit

A significant milestone was achieved at Ernest Henry Mining (EHM) on Thursday 9 July when mining in Stage 6 of the pit was completed.

In June’s edition of Mine to Market we learned how the record wet season deferred production from Stage 6 in the bottom of the pit to benches higher up where only waste material could be mined.

EHM continued to produce copper concentrate using ore supplies from its Run of Mine (ROM) stock pile while water and mud were being removed from Stage 6, with ore production eventually starting again on 2 June.

Ryan Turner – EHM’s Mining Manager, said it was rewarding for all involved to finish working in Stage 6 since there were so many challenges involved with mining that particular section of the pit.

“We dealt with the water and mud but pit conditions were still testing after that,” he said.

“We mined deeper in Stage 6 than originally planned, adding three benches to supplement our ore profile, so there wasn’t much room down there towards the end. It was a challenging task for our operators to manoeuvre the machinery in such a small area and it took a lot of patience and skill,” said Ryan.

Clay Taylor – EHM’s Technical Services Manager, said there were also geotechnical challenges to overcome on top of the planning difficulties associated with excess water in Stage 6.

“Our geotechnical engineers joined forces with our surveyors and technical specialists from Orica to design and conduct detailed remediation blasts to reduce potential rockfall hazards,” he said.

“The Technical Services team really came together to effectively manage the risks while minimising production delays in Stage 6.”

Ryan and Clay congratulated all employees and contractors who’d contributed to EHM’s milestone.

“The most pleasing and rewarding thing for us is that safety remained the focus for all involved, with no significant incidents or injuries occurring despite some high risk tasks being undertaken,” they said.

Mining will now focus on Stage 8 with remediation works from the controlled South Wall failure that occurred in August last year, scheduled for completion by the end of July.

Production will then continue in Stage 7 – the final stage planned in the EHM open pit.

Vacation Employment Opportunities 2009/2010

Applications are invited from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year UNIVERSITY STUDENTS who are currently studying in the following disciplines:

- Accounting
- Business
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Geology
- Geoscience
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Metallurgy/Chemical Engineering
- Mining Engineering
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Rock Mechanics
- Surveying

Paid vacation work is from 30 November 2009 to 19 February 2010. Successful applicants will relocate to Mount Isa for the full 12 weeks and are housed at Parkside Apartments (at nominal rent). Reasonable transport costs to Mount Isa are paid by Xstrata.

Applications should be made via our website at www.xstratacareers.com
Graduate students visit Xstrata

During July, 35 final year University students visited Mount Isa with a view to gaining engineering roles in Xstrata’s 2010 Graduate Program. Students came from all over Australia including as far away as Perth and Adelaide.

Keeping the Bowen community informed

With much achieved in regards to environmental improvements and controls in the past two years at the Bowen Coke Works, Executive General Manager – Kevin Hendry addressed Bowen community members at the 2009 community information session in late July.

“The session provides Bowen residents with an opportunity to meet with management and ask any questions they may have,” said Kevin.

The main topic of discussion was the improvements made to reduce the Bowen Coke Work’s environmental footprint during the last year including reducing fugitive dust and noise, conducting live weather monitoring, and biodiversity health assessments in Doughty’s Creek.

During the session, Kevin also outlined Xstrata Zinc’s contribution to the community.

“By the end of 2010 Xstrata Zinc will have committed $1.12 million to a variety of initiatives in the Bowen community through the Xstrata Community Partnership Program North Queensland,” said Kevin.

“This includes $750,000 towards the establishment of a Bowen PCYC.

“I am pleased to hear that with the support of the Queensland Government and the Whitsunday Shire Council, building of the PCYC will commence towards the end of this year with an opening scheduled for mid to late 2010,” he said.

Brian Hearne – Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Zinc Australia, joined Kevin in welcoming guests at a key stakeholder morning tea the following morning. Brian spoke on the importance of Bowen Coke Works to the zinc operations in Mount Isa, as well as giving an outline of Xstrata Zinc’s Australia wide business.

With the 2008 Xstrata Zinc North Queensland Sustainability Report now available, reports were distributed to all in attendance at both the information session and key stakeholder event.
Three of Xstrata’s very own have received top awards from the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM).

Steve de Kruijff – Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Peter Woodall and Paul Johnson accepted their awards, announced earlier this year, at the annual AusIMM dinner and awards presentation at the Gold Coast on 5 July.

Paving the way to safety

Steve was awarded the AusIMM Jim Torlach Health and Safety Award for his commitment to improving the safety and health of his people.

“Steve is a man who is passionate about the safety of his people, and has applied that passion to ensure organisational safety goals are implemented consistently and successfully at the operational level,” said Michael Catchpole – AusIMM Chief Executive.

“Steve has been at the forefront of safety and health innovation through programs developed and implemented by teams under his management. He has ensured sustainable improvements in performance and provided strong leadership to the hard-rock mining industry of Queensland.”

Steve has overseen the implementation of many innovations over the past few years. These include the re-organisation of the safety and health functions and increases in the resources committed to training; an inclusive safety communication and improvement system; and a two year study focused on ‘over period of time’ injuries in key underground mining roles, identifying opportunities to make improvements to equipment and task design.

“The leadership and passion Steve de Kruijff applies to the health and safety of workers in the industry continues to deliver results,” said Michael.

Congratulations Steve, you’re an inspiration to your people and the mining industry.

Taking technology to a new level

Congratulations to Bill Johnson – former Minerals Processing Manager for Mount Isa Mines, and Peter Woodall – Senior Mechanical Engineer, who jointly received the Mineral Industry Operating Technique Award (MIOTA) this month alongside Steve de Kruijff.

Bill and Peter were the driving force in the development of the IsaMill™, leading the design changes to upscale and modify the technology for the mining industry.

Their work resulted in the creation of a new technology which has moved from fine grinding to mainstream minerals grinding.

The successful development of the IsaMill™ enabled the development of the McArthur River Deposit which until then had been untreatable. IsaMill™ later proved to be the enabling technology for Xstrata Zinc’s George Fisher mine deposit and Black Star open cut deposits at Mount Isa Mines.
Stage 2 of the Leichhardt River Remediation Project was completed in May/June of 2008 when around 120,000 tonnes of historical mine sediments were removed from the Leichhardt River in Mount Isa.

To ensure the success of the project, Xstrata committed to ongoing sampling and analysis of the area after each wet season until 2011, with follow up remediation works to be undertaken to remove further sediments if necessary.

Verification sampling was conducted throughout the project area in September 2008. Results indicated that, while the remediation works were successful and had significantly reduced historical mine sediment in the area, there were some isolated areas of material remaining.

During a recent visual inspection, areas of historical mine sediment exposed after the heavy rainfall and associated flooding of the 2008/2009 wet season were able to be identified.

Therefore, in mid-June 2009, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines undertook extensive surface sampling of the Leichhardt River and surrounding area to determine the boundaries of areas potentially requiring further remediation.

The sampling focused on the Stage 2 project area and Death Adder Gully. In July 2009 the work program was extended to include sampling at depth and involved some heavy earth moving equipment to dig test pits.

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines anticipates that further remediation of the Leichhardt River and surrounding area may be required in a further Leichhardt River Remediation Project campaign (Stage 3).

If required, this work may be undertaken prior to the 2009/2010 wet season, subject to gaining the relevant work approvals and permits. If further remediation is required, it is anticipated that the work will be undertaken using a similar methodology to Stage 2.

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines will continue to update the community on the progress of the sampling program and with details regarding any proposed remediation works.

Leichhardt River Remediation Project Update

Andrew Theobald
Senior Mine Engineer, EHM

My colleagues don’t know this, but I used to build houses for a living.
My favourite food is spicy calamari.
I drive a Landcruiser GX.
The person I most admire is my wife, for looking after the family in Melbourne when I am at work at EHM.
In my spare time I am preparing to build my new house.
My pet hate is accidentally touching electric fences.
I can’t live without a touch of Tia Maria in my coffee.

Scott Healy
Project Geologist, George Fisher Mine

My colleagues don’t know this, but I used to work as a dodgem car “operator” at Funtasia (formerly Grundys) on the Gold Coast.
My favourite food is scotch fillet with pepper sauce.
I drive a Suzuki Jimny.
The person I admire most is my Dad, who has been a fire-fighter in the CFA for most of his life and continues to help out as a volunteer.
In my spare time I go 4WDing, fishing and occasionally camping….none of which I do as often as I would like.
My pet hate is people who let their dogs roam the streets.
I can’t live without beer and TV.

Ken ‘Krusty’ Graham
Crane Driver, Copper Smelter, Mount Isa

My favourite food is prawns.
I drive a Holden Astra.
The person I admire most is my wife Shelly.
In my spare time I work! Music, carpet cleaning, car detailing.
My pet hate is people who don’t get permission to use my crane!
I can’t live without my kids and money.
Farewell Glen Croft

After 42 years in the mining industry and nine years with the company, Glen Croft – General Manager Asset Management, will be retiring from Xstrata Copper on 7 August, 2009.

Glen commenced with Mount Isa Mines in May 2000 as Group Maintenance Engineer. Prior to this, he had worked in various engineering and maintenance support management roles for the Rio Tinto Group.

In March 2001, Glen was promoted to the position of General Manager Maintenance Support for Mount Isa Mines. Glen was a key member of the senior management team during the formation of Xstrata Copper in January 2004.

Since that time he has been the driving force in the development of the Asset Management Common System approach for Xstrata Copper North Queensland, and his disciplined leadership has seen the successful development and roll-out of this system globally across Xstrata Copper’s five divisions.

“The system that Glen has developed is now recognised as the benchmark for all Xstrata Copper common systems and he can be proud of this achievement,” said Steve de Kruijff – Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Copper North Queensland.

“On behalf of the Xstrata Copper North Queensland Division, I would like to thank Glen for the commitment he has provided to our business,” said Steve.

“We wish Glen and his wife Diane all the very best in their retirement,” he said.

Glen Croft retires after 42 years in the industry
Chilean students’ outback odyssey

Twelve Chilean scholarship students have recently graduated thanks to an industry leading international technical program developed and implemented by Xstrata Copper, the Chilean Government and TAFE Queensland institutes.

The Chilean Technical Scholarships Queensland pilot program was developed with three main components: a five month intensive English language training; a ten week technical studies program at Mount Isa TAFE; followed by a 20 week practical work experience placement at Xstrata Copper’s world class metalliferous mining and processing operations in Mount Isa.

The 12 students graduated in June with a TAFE Queensland qualification; Certificate II in Metalliferous Mining Operations (Open Cut).

“Xstrata Copper’s work experience program provided an opportunity for students to apply their TAFE learnings in a real-life work environment, particularly in the key areas of safety awareness, risk assessment and the operation of machinery and plant equipment,” said Ken Draffen – General Manager Engineering Services and Projects.

Through the structured work experience component, students gained experience in various departments within Xstrata Copper’s Mount Isa operations including the copper concentrator, copper smelter, chemistry lab, drawing office, supply/Isa Distribution Centre, exploration, IT and environment. This also allowed students to build upon their English language skills in a supportive work environment that encourages cultural exchange and cultural awareness.

“Some students came to Xstrata Copper without prior site experience while others had relevant work experience in their area of expertise such as IT, chemical analysis and technical drawing.

These students learned how their newly developed and transferable skills could be applied in the mining industry in Australia and back in Chile as well as globally,” said Dick Kostowski – Program Coordinator and Senior Training and Development Advisor, Xstrata Copper.

The industry placement also provided an opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of the mining industry, how the mining process works and what career options are available to them in the mining sector, all in a world class metalliferous mine site. The placement also allowed students to experience living and working in a remote outback mining town.

“The program is strengthening the relationship between industry, government and educational institutions to ensure we continue to create sustainable educational outcomes,” said Ken.

The innovative program is recognised as industry-leading and, given its success in Mount Isa, is aimed to be modelled throughout other parts of Australia and the world.
Program of events*

Monday 3 August
7pm to 10pm – Art Exhibition “Red Ochre” (Mount Isa Civic Centre)

Wednesday 5 August
6.30am – Zonta Bush Poets Breakfast (The Buffs Club)
7.30pm – The Bull Pit “Man Against Beast” (Kalkadoon Stadium)
9.30pm – The Blast (Rodeo Forecourt – Buchanan Park)

Thursday 6 August
7am – MBOFM Cowboys & Cowgirls Golf Day (Mount Isa Golf Club)
7pm – Xstrata Mailman Express (Buchanan Park)

Friday 7 August
9am – Rodeo & Time Events (Kalkadoon Stadium)
7pm – Mardi Gras Street Parade (George & Sutton St)
8pm – The Bull Pit “Man Against Beast” (Kalkadoon Stadium)
8pm – Whatever Works (Xstrata Entertainment Centre) – Buchanan Park
10pm – Beccy Cole (Rodeo Forecourt)

Saturday 8 August
9am – Rodeo & Time Events (Kalkadoon Stadium)
12.30pm – Local Talent Showcase (Xstrata Entertainment Centre)
10pm – The Blast (Rodeo Forecourt)
11.15pm – TBA (Rodeo Forecourt)

Sunday 9 August
8am – Buffs Recovery Breakfast (The Buffs Club)
9am – Rodeo & Time Events (Kalkadoon Stadium)
6.30pm – RUCKUS (Rodeo Forecourt)

* Program of events subject to change

Local Talent Showcase Schedule

Friday 7 August 2009
8pm to 10pm
Whatever Works, 2009 Winner of Mount Isa Show battle of the bands.

Saturday 8 August 2009
12.30 to 1.00pm
MITS Harlequin – Happily Ever Laughter by Bill Conlon
1pm to 1.30pm
Mount Isa School of Dance – Demonstration
1.30pm to 2pm
Viv Edwards (still to confirm)
2pm to 2.30pm
MITS Harlequin – Happily Ever Laughter by Bill Conlon
2.30pm to 3pm
Line Dancing – Demonstration
3pm to 3.30pm
Stick Fighting – Demonstration
3.30pm to 4pm
PCYC Gymnastics & Acrobatics – Demonstration
4pm to 4.30pm
Fifteen – four piece high school girl band performing country pop
4.30pm to 5pm
Eliza Freeman – solo acoustic artist performing popular cover songs
5pm to 5.30pm
XXXX Angels
Rockhana Festival remains rock solid

Cloncurry’s Rockhana Gem and Mineral Festival is earning a name for itself with a few extra attractions helping to bring in the crowd this year.

The fifth annual event was held at Mary Kathleen Memorial Park from 3 to 5 July, drawing a steady stream of visitors all weekend.

Gail Wipaki manages the park and she says word’s spreading about the festival.

“We had 19 vendors selling rock and gem samples this year, up four from last year,” she said.

“Two of our vendors came from as far away as New South Wales and one even came from Victoria. Some vendors have been returning each year since the inaugural festival and a number of newcomers have already said they’ll be back next year.”

“For the first time this year we had workshops in free-style wire wrapping, dichroic (glass pendant) and lamp-work bead making, which proved to be popular.”

Volunteers from Ernest Henry Mine (EHM) worked over the weekend to provide festival-goers with information about the mine and Cloncurry’s local geology.

Many collectors were pleased to be able to take home a rock sample from EHM’s open pit.

Copper Smelter Family Fun Day

COMING AND SEE WHERE WE WORK!
Copper Smelter employees are hosting a family day for immediate family members.

To cater for shifts, we will be hosting a choice of two visiting days.

Dates: Monday 7 September and Friday 11 September
Times: 3pm to 4.30pm
Location: Copper Smelter gate entrance

All family members must be hosted by the employee.
All family members attending must be registered beforehand with the relevant department secretary.

Note: Employees MUST bring their ID tag with them on the day for entry.

• SAUSAGE SIZZLE AND COLD DRINKS
• BUS RIDE AROUND SMELTER SITE
• STICKERS AND FLYERS AVAILABLE
Employee profiles

Dickson Ikis
Plant Metallurgist – Concentrator, EHM

Birthplace: Wapenamanda Enga Province in Papua New Guinea.
Years with Xstrata: One year and seven months.
My role at Xstrata involves: Metallurgical projects.
Strengths: Volunteering.
Weaknesses: I don’t like to admit when I’m stressed.
Family: Married with four kids – three girls and one boy. My youngest girl is named Cloncurry.
Favourite TV show/movie: Better Homes and Gardens and the NRL Footy Show.
Holiday destination of my dreams: Tasmania.
Five celebrities I would like to invite to dinner: Barack Obama, Bill Gates, Russell Crowe, Jennifer Hawkins and any Bulldogs player.
If I could change something, it would be: The copper price.
Wish for the future: Own a real estate business, buy one or two more houses and then retire.

Michael Cowley
Fitter, Copper Refinery

Birthplace: Brisbane.
Years with Xstrata: Three years.
My role at Xstrata involves: Maintaining machinery and responding to breakdowns.
Strengths: Team player.
Weaknesses: Beer.
Family: Partner Kristy, daughter Lilly and dog Sasha.
Favourite TV show/movie: Rove.
Holiday destination of my dreams: Las Vegas.
Five celebrities I would like to invite to dinner: Angelina Jolie, Will Ferrell, Pink, Rove, Paris Hilton.
If I could change something, it would be: More RDOs.
Wish for the future: Win the Lotto.

Paul Wragg
Senior Draftsman, George Fisher Mine

Birthplace: Melbourne.
Years with Xstrata: 24 years.
My role at Xstrata involves: Development designs, blasting patterns and associated risk assessments.
Strengths: To roll with the punches.
Weaknesses: Calling slam no trumps without the Joker.
Family: Scattered all around Australia.
Favourite TV show/movie: CSI, Criminal Minds, Law and Order, The Castle.
Holiday destination of my dreams: Gregory River, Lawn Hill, New Zealand.
Five celebrities I would like to invite to dinner: my colleagues Yannick BC, Sarah B, Sarah Mac, C-Dog and Swaffie.
If I could change something, it would be: I would like to have had more time with my father. He died in 2004 having survived the Depression, WWII and seven kids.
Wish for the future: George Fisher Mine remaining economic for all those who work here.

Steven Scott
Leading Hand/Diesel Fitter
Copper Maintenance, Rebuild Workshop, Heavy Fleet Section

Birthplace: Perth.
Years with Xstrata: Two years.
My role at Xstrata involves: Maintenance on above-ground heavy machinery.
Strengths: Ability to remember faces and names, and honesty.
Weaknesses: Not being able to say no to a beer.
Family: Mum, dad and brother.
Favourite TV show/movie: My Name is Earl; anything with Jack Black.
Holiday destination of my dreams: Oktoberfest in Germany and Amsterdam.
Five celebrities I would like to invite to dinner: Jennifer Love-Hewitt, Slash, Angus Young, Paris Hilton and Charli Delaney.
If I could change something, it would be: Cheaper airfares.
Wish for the future: To own a big boat that I could fish at sea for days on end...

Blood brother – Erick Hegh

Passion – that’s how Townsville IT Advisor Erick Hegh describes his dedication to being a blood donor.

It all started in the early 80s at the Mount Isa Base Hospital when a group from the Mount Isa Mines IT Department went along to give blood. When Erick moved to the copper refinery in Townsville, he continued to donate.

On one of his regular visits a few years back, one of the Red Cross Blood Bank ladies who had Leukaemia asked Erick if he was interested in becoming an aphaeresis (plasma) donor as well.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the Red Cross blood collection service in Australia, the Federal Government has named 2009 The Year of the Blood Donor.

Erick encourages everyone to consider giving blood.

“The people at the Blood Bank are wonderful,” said Erick. “Besides getting a cuppa and a pikelet, it also provides an opportunity to have a chat with the staff and hear about their work.”

Erick donates fortnightly and at this rate he should achieve his goal of 300 donations in roughly another five years.

Congratulations Erick.
Mount Isa and Cloncurry go Bollywood!

Mount Isa and Cloncurry will experience a touch of India when Queensland Arts Council brings Gods of Spicy Things: A Divine Comedy to the region in August, proudly supported by the Xstrata Community Partnership Program North Queensland. The production tells the story of two Hindu gods, two unsuspecting mortals and a contest of love – Bollywood style!

The flamboyant story follows Leela, a magazine writer seeking exotic adventures and Chris, a slick London advertising guru visiting his Indian homeland to scatter his mother’s ashes. They are thrown together by the gods and taken on an unexpected journey. This is a colourful, mystical romp through exotic India with all the elements of a Bollywood hit movie – comedy, fate, love affairs, decadent costumes and a good dose of singing and dancing.

Written by Sue Hayes and directed by Suellen Maunder, this divine comedy will help you to escape to the beautiful contradiction that is India.

Performance details:
Cloncurry Shire Hall,
Sunday 23 August 6.30pm.
Tickets $25 from Gidgee Baskets phone 4742 2288.

Mount Isa Civic Centre,
Tuesday 25 August 7.30pm.
Tickets $32 from Mount Isa Civic Centre phone 4747 3300.

Performances are part of a 25-show tour. For more dates and info see onstage.qac.org.au

Border Run – are you up for the challenge?

The annual 200 kilometre Border Run bike ride from Mount Isa to the Northern Territory Border is once again taking place on 15 August.

Team Safety (pictured) is proving they’re fit enough for the challenge! Competing in this year’s competition for Team Safety is Margot Healy, Lynda Alcorn, Jason Ahearn, Arthur McHugh and Parl Marston.

Arthur and Anthony will be competing in the individual race while the rest of the team will compete in the team relay.

Good luck to all teams involved in this year’s challenge!
Continuing the focus on managing lead

The Xstrata Lead Committee has been actively improving the on-site management of lead exposure since its creation in 2007.

So far in 2009 numerous initiatives and improvements have been achieved under the committee’s guidance:

- A purpose-built blood sampling centre has been constructed for the Northern Site Access. This facility is utilised frequently by employees from the zinc-lead concentrator, site-services and contracting firms.
- We are now conducting more detailed audits of the companies we contract to, regarding the mechanisms they have in place to manage exposure to lead.
- Improvements have been made to the provision of blood lead results to contractors, and
- Greater use of the Porta Count machine in the lead smelter and zinc-lead concentrator to ensure respiratory protection is fitted and maintained to standard.

Further initiatives planned for 2009 include the completion of the Northern Site Access Gate Laundry and the introduction of a site specific Living with Lead training package for all Xstrata Mount Isa Mines employees and contractors which will cover workplace, environment and community aspects of lead management.

Yellows and blues help manage lead

With the successful introduction of a new style of clothing at the Lead Smelter and Zinc-Lead Concentrator last year, this clothing is now being introduced across the entire Xstrata Zinc Mount Isa operations.

George Fisher Mine and Black Star open cut mine are now rolling out the yellow and blue uniforms to personnel. Different in colour to the orange and blue uniforms used elsewhere on site, they are also identifiable by the distinct wording printed across the back which reads either ‘Lead Smelter’ or ‘Site Use Only’.

With the cut off date for complete transition to the new uniforms set for 25 November 2009, many employees from Xstrata Zinc’s mining operations are already setting a good example by donning their yellow and blues.

As part of Xstrata Mount Isa Mines’ commitment to its clean-in/clean-out procedures, the uniforms are laundered on-site and returned to lockers prior to the next shift.

Security personnel will monitor all outgoing traffic to ensure employees do not leave site wearing their yellow and blue uniforms.

The BSOC Drill and Blast crew set a good example of safely managing lead by wearing their new yellow and blue ‘Site Use Only’ uniforms.
A day at the blast furnace

The lead smelter comprises four major stages for the conversion of lead concentrate into semi-refined crude lead bullion. These stages are:

1. preparation of the feed material – mixing of concentrates, fluxes and recycles;
2. primary roasting of the feed in the Sinter Plant – elimination of the sulphur in the concentrates by oxidation and agglomeration of feeds into sinter;
3. smelting of the sinter with coke in the blast furnace – high temperature separation of the sinter into a) slag containing the bulk of the impurities and b) crude lead containing silver and some minor impurities; and
4. removal of some of the impurities in crude lead and casting – arsenic, antimony and copper are removed from the lead with the drossing process.

A charge car delivers sinter and coke from the sinter plant to the top of the blast furnace for charging. Sinter is a mix of metal oxides and fluxes agglomerated to around the size of a rockmelon.

The blast furnace is a water cooled rectangular vessel that is batch fed and continuously tapped. The inputs to the furnace are sinter, coke and air. The products from the furnace are hot gases, slag and crude lead.

Coke is produced at the Xstrata Zinc Bowen Coke Works and is essentially coal with the volatile impurities removed, leaving fixed carbon. Carbon is required to generate the correct conditions in the furnace as a fuel source and reducing agent to enable the reduction of the metal oxides to lead metal and slag.

Molten lead metal and slag pool at the bottom of the furnace and are continuously tapped to the forehearth where lead and slag are separated on the basis of density.

The temperature of the molten material is around 1,200°C. Slag is granulated and taken away via two storage tanks.

The lead flows into ten tonne pots and is then transported by crane to the dressing floor for semi refining.

Lead smelter operators work the 12 hour four-on-four of roster and there are four crews. When fully manned, the blast furnace requires the following operators:

Furnaceman (1) – The role of the furnaceman is the senior role within the blast furnace area and is required to work closely with the shift supervisor to ensure the furnace operations are carried out safely, effectively and efficiently. The furnaceman regulates blast air rate, monitors and changes coke levels, controls the depth of the slag bath and controls the cooling water system that services the furnace. Safe and efficient operation of the blast furnace requires the optimisation of many process parameters which in turn requires the furnaceman to have many years of plant experience.

Spoutman (1) – The spoutman ensures an open passage of flow for slag and lead leaving the forehearth. As slag and lead separation occurs in the forehearth, each material has a separate exit point. On the slag outlet, the Spoutman must ensure a continuous flow of molten slag to the slag granulator and must clear any restrictions caused by frozen slag by striking it with a bar. On the lead side, the Spoutman ensures a continuous flow of lead to lead pots and must clear any restrictions caused by the precipitation of copper/lead sulphides or dross as the lead cools. The Spoutman also monitors the depth of the slag and molten lead layers in the forehearth.

Shift supervisor (1) – The shift supervisor is accountable for the crew’s safety and performance. The supervisor facilitates PASS (Positive Attitude Safety System) and operator training progress, and is responsible for all general operating decisions required to keep the blast furnace at optimal conditions. The shift supervisor is also responsible for the performance of the dressing and casting aisles, which requires a further three operators.

Like all operational areas within Xstrata, a PASS meeting is held at the beginning of each shift. The blast furnace crew and the drossing crew participate in the same PASS meeting in which safety issues are identified and communicated and safety improvements are encouraged.

Thank you Paul Voigt, Roger Wynn and Warwick Smith for your contribution.
A Furnaceman cleans the ‘v-notch’ where lead and slag flow from the furnace. In the foreground is a bar which is glowing hot after being used to clean under the lead well.

The temperature of the molten material is around 1,200°C.
EHM bursary scholarship winner announced

Rachel Richardson, a year 11 student from Cloncurry State School, was announced the winner of Ernest Henry Mining’s (EHM) Xstrata School Bursary for 2009 at the school’s assembly on 22 June.

Rachel was one of three applicants for this year’s bursary scholarship. As the winner, she will receive $1,000 towards her future studies, plus the chance to complete three weeks of work experience at EHM.

“The bursary helps us to showcase how exciting and rewarding a career in the mining industry can be, hopefully helping us to attract more Cloncurry-based employees,” said Deirdrie Bushett – Superintendent of Human Resources and Administration.

Rachel completed one week of work experience at EHM earlier this year and she will complete a further two weeks with the mine’s Technical Services Department in September, with a focus on geology.

Safety in numbers

Congratulations to the team at Ernest Henry Mining (EHM) who reached a significant safety milestone in April, achieving one million hours worked without a Lost Time Injury (LTI).

Mike Westerman – General Manager EHM thanked everyone involved for their contribution towards this outstanding result.

“This milestone was achieved despite challenging conditions in the pit and unprecedented rainfall events in the first quarter of the year,” he said.

EHM achieved two million man hours LTI free in April last year.
Scholarships awarded to UQ students

Four lucky engineering students from the University of Queensland (UQ) were awarded $8,000 scholarships by Xstrata Mount Isa Mines.

The students received their scholarships at a presentation at UQ during May.

Four other scholarships were awarded to students at James Cook University, Griffith University, University of NSW and the University of Melbourne.

EHM receives a face lift

The tailings dam at Ernest Henry Mining (EHM) can now store an additional 12 months worth of tailings thanks to a project that was completed on 13 July to ‘lift’ the dam wall.

EHM’s Mine Production Department worked hard to cart waste rock to the tailings dam while contractors from Huddy’s compacted the rock into shape, raising the wall by 2.4 metres.

Tony Lamby – EHM’s Project Manager, says the work took around five months to complete.

“The project was a huge success, with the two teams working well together to finish the project on time and under budget.

“We’ll need to carry out a similar project next year to raise the wall even higher,” he said.
Eleven aspiring engineers successfully completed the 2009 Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) Engineering Camp this month.

Now in its third year, the QMEA Engineering Camp is a joint initiative between Queensland Resources Council (QRC) and Education Queensland which is focused on attracting young people into the minerals and energy industry. Xstrata is one of five Platinum Foundation Sponsors of the QMEA.

Following on from the success of the previous two years’ camps, 11 students and two teachers from all over Queensland travelled to Mount Isa for an intensive ten days of hands-on engineering work experience on the Xstrata Mount Isa Mines site.

“It’s a privilege for these students to be welcomed and immersed into the mining environment,” Louise Wilcox – QMEA Project Implementation Field Officer.

The students’ task was to work on identified real life issues occurring in the mining industry and help develop solutions for these problems.

This year’s projects were creating a road construction design for the George Fisher Haul Road, or finding a solution to increase the capacity, recycling and capability of the two air chiller plants for the underground copper operation.

The George Fisher Haul Road project, led by Bryant Schwengler – Mine Manager Black Star Open Cut Mine, and David LauLau – Void Superintendent, was to look at ways to minimise the impact of flooding on the haul road at Spear and Mullock creeks. The students looked at many innovative designs for road and haulage options and designed the most practical solutions to ensure road and production capability are maximised. One of the many design problems was ensuring that culvert diameter was kept to a minimum for ease of transport and cost considerations.

Over at MICO Engineering, students engineered a solution to increase the capacity and capability of the R67 and K61 chilled water plants.

This team was led by Matt O’Neill – MICO Engineering Manager, Tyr Ibardolaza – Superintendent Technical Engineering, and David Schraag – Superintendent Fans and Refrigeration. Following a detailed induction into the chiller systems, students were asked to check the calculations on the capacity of the existing system. Students also had to investigate alternative methods to chill water and what the resulting cost benefits would be of any upgrades or new systems depending on the results of their investigation.

Upon completion of their assigned projects, the students were required to present their findings and recommendations to Xstrata’s senior management team at a presentation and award evening held at Outback at Isa.

“The engineering camp is a great experience for any student. It is a way to open eyes to career avenues that were not noticed before,” said Beau Francisco from Kirwan State High School.

To ensure they got a taste of living and working in a mining town such as Mount Isa, the students attended an underground tour at Outback at Isa, an award winning tourist centre, as well as a surface tour of the Mount Isa Mines lease.

“The camp was very successful. It was really beneficial for the students to gain exposure to the mining industry and the hands-on aspect gave students a taste of life as an engineer,” said Matt.

The students also believed that the real life experience was a great experience and introduction to the mining industry.

“The camp gave us the opportunity to interact with students from around the state and to see that we’re not so different after all,” said Aeryn Larkin from Spinifex State College Mount Isa.

“The camp was an amazing experience that has changed my outlook on my future career options,” said Tom Barber from Anglican Church Grammar School in Brisbane.

Students examine options for the chilled water plants.

Students involved in the George Fisher Haul Road project team.

Students involved in the MICO Engineering project team.
Mount Isa’s got talent

Mount Isa-based singer/songwriter and Xstrata Mount Isa Mine’s lab technician Shane Eggmolesse is a finalist in the statewide search for Queensland’s best and most innovative songwriters.

Shane is one of four finalists in the Indigenous category of the 2009 Q Song Music Awards for his song *Don’t Mind*.

“I am really pleased to be a finalist in this year’s competition and look forward to hearing the results,” said Shane.

Almost 2,200 songs were entered in Q Song 2009 and each song was judged anonymously by a team of dedicated music industry representatives. “Judges were once again overwhelmed by the enormous talent of Queensland songwriters and the high quality of entries,” said Denise Foley, Executive Officer of Q Music Festival.

Q Music President, Professor Julian Knowles said the awards were about recognising excellence in the art of songwriting.

“Q Song is about more than just rewarding our established songwriters,” he said.

“These awards aim to encourage and foster the state’s finest new and emerging artists.”

Shane’s career and music portfolio spans over 15 years on both the national and international stage. “I started out by jamming with my mates in a pineapple shed in Woombye 16 years ago,” said Shane.

Breaking into the punk rock scene in 1994, Shane and his band Furthermore toured extensively throughout Australia and New Zealand for six years. “The hectic on-tour lifestyle eventually took its toll and I left the band to take a well deserved break,” he said.

But Shane’s musical career didn’t stop there. His passion to continue writing and playing music eventually found him in the hip-hop and rapcore group Void if Removed in 2001. The band released an album called Craving and once again Shane found himself touring around Australia.

“Highlights of my time in Void if Removed included performing at the Woodstock Festival in 2004 and sharing the stage with Thirsty Merc, Spiderbait and Small Mercies,” he said.

In 2007, Shane moved with his wife and two children to Mount Isa to commence work with Xstrata Mount Isa Mines. During this time Shane has played at numerous shows in clubs and pubs in Mount Isa and North Queensland. These include supporting country music legend Troy Cassar-Daley with local band The Blast.

*Don’t Mind* is the latest album from our local artist and balances insightful vocal narratives and melodic guitar compositions.

The winners will be announced at the 4th annual Q Song Awards night to be held at The Tivoli, August 11, 2009. For tickets or more information, please visit www.qsong.com.au or Shane’s website www.myspace.com/shaneggy. Xstrata Mount Isa Mines wishes Shane every success for the awards.
NAIDOC Week

Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines proudly sponsored the Mount Isa 2009 National Aboriginal and Islanders Day of Commemoration (NAIDOC) Week celebrations held from 5 to 12 July.

NAIDOC Week showcases Indigenous people’s achievements and contribution to the nation. The theme of this year’s celebrations was Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth.

Over the past seven years Xstrata has sponsored various events during the week-long celebrations. This year, Xstrata sponsored the annual Elders’ Luncheon held at the Island Bowls Club. Elders from Mount Isa and surrounding communities including Camooweal, Cloncurry and Dajarra were joined by members of Xstrata’s senior management. Around 160 people partook in the luncheon and shared in the memories of the trials and successes of the past 50 years.

More than 150 people walked in the annual NAIDOC Week march from Kalkadoon Tribal Council to George McCoy Park for the start of the Family Fun Day on Friday 10 July.

The fun day included stalls, food and entertainment including performances by Mob FM’s Barry Lea. Xstrata’s Shane Eggmolesse wowed the crowd with some of his own songs while Mount Isa’s Clive Sam played the didgeridoo.

Xstrata’s stand at this year’s event included giveaways, a HR information booth and BSafe interactive display. The Living with Lead Alliance also had a display, providing information on living safely with lead.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

Community Information Session

Xstrata Mount Isa Mines hosted more than 70 people at its second community information session of the year held at the Mount Isa Civic Centre on Wednesday 8 July.

The session included a special launch of the 2008 Xstrata Mount Isa Mines Sustainability Report, the release of Phase One (Land) findings of the Lead Pathways Study (see insert of the summary report), and an update on production targets, expansion and exploration, and key initiatives and projects in the health, safety, environment, community relations and human resources departments.

At the conclusion of the session, community members and key stakeholders asked questions and then networked with Xstrata’s management teams over refreshments.
Xstrata across the globe

Las Bambas handicrafts project wins prize
An initiative to promote local handicrafts in communities near Xstrata Copper’s Las Bambas project in southern Peru won a top prize at EXPOMINA 2009, a major event for the country’s mining industry. Accepting the prize at the EXPOMINA’s closing ceremony, Southern Peru Division’s Chief Operating Officer José Marún said the project seeks to recover local culture and traditions to promote social inclusion.

The project provides training in traditional techniques of dyeing and weaving, how to make more effective use of time and equipment and quality control techniques to ensure a more standardised product.

The result is high quality products that can be sold in markets in major cities across Peru and abroad, providing an alternative source of income for people living in one of the poorest parts of Peru.

By creating a productive chain around the handicrafts, the project has not only helped artisans but also those who provide the raw materials for the goods, such as livestock farmers, shearsers, plant collectors and cultivators of plants used for producing natural dyes.

At the same ceremony, Xstrata Copper was also awarded for its Social Responsibility programs in southern Peru.

Kidd Mine shines with John T. Ryan Trophy
Xstrata Copper’s Kidd Mine in Canada has been awarded the John T. Ryan Regional Trophy for safety achievements reached in 2008.

The John T. Ryan Trophy is awarded to the eligible mine which in the previous year experienced the lowest modified work injury frequency per 200,000 hours worked. This award program has been in place since 1941 and Kidd Mine has been a past recipient, most recently from 1995 to 1999.

From left to right: Rick Ferrell – Certified Kidd Mine Worker Representative, Don Landry – Sr. Territory Sales Manager for Mine Safety Appliances (award sponsor), and Tom Semadeni – General Manager Kidd Mine.

Business Opportunities for Indigenous Contractors
Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) in conjunction with members of the North West Queensland Indigenous Resources Initiative (NWQIRI) recently convened a three day workshop – Business Opportunities for Indigenous Contractors in Mount Isa.

Held from 14 to 15 July, the workshop was tailored to existing and prospective Indigenous small business clients and representatives of Traditional Owner groups and Indigenous organisations in the greater Mount Isa and Gulf region.

The aim of the workshop was to provide information from companies operating in the resources sector in the region on tendering opportunities over the coming twelve months.

The workshop provided networking opportunities for company representatives and Indigenous business operators. It also provided Indigenous clients with skills development in preparation for tendering work within the resources and associated service industries.

Industry case studies and best practice examples relating to employment, supply chains and procurement framework were discussed and real business opportunities were linked with the region’s current and prospective indigenous business sector.

Trevor McGregor – Manager Xstrata Copper NQ Contracts Development, presented at the forum and focused on the existing Xstrata Accreditation model and processes, along with information on TenderLink, services procurement requirements and Xstrata Mount Isa Mines’ expectations for its business partners.
Coping with grief and loss

What is grief?
Grief is our emotional response to loss. Most of us think of death when we hear the word grief, but losses other than death can also bring grief. Separation or divorce, children leaving home, migrating or moving, and redundancy or retirement are all forms of loss. Grieving is the process of adjusting to your loss and learning to live with the changes it has brought to your life. It is often accompanied by strong and painful feelings that change frequently. It has no fixed timeline.

Everyone grieves differently
It is often assumed that people progress through grief in similar ways, but this isn’t the case. Grieving is a personal and highly individual experience – there is no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way to grieve. However, there are some emotional and physical symptoms that are commonly experienced during the grieving process.

Coping with grief and loss
The grieving process can be hard, but it doesn’t have to be a time of constant sadness or distress. Some strategies for coping with grief include:

- Crying – Don’t be afraid to cry, it is a normal human response to intense feelings
- Time alone – Schedule some time alone to focus on your feelings and express them in a way that feels natural and comfortable to you (e.g. writing a diary or praying)
- Physical activity – Engaging in physical activity can be a good way to release tension and provide a distraction
- Time with your family – Schedule time to grieve as a family (e.g. talking about the deceased and sharing your feelings)
- Pamper yourself – Allow yourself time to indulge in the things that you enjoy
- Seek support – Have a cup of coffee with a friend, attend a bereavement support group or see a professional counsellor, and
- Memorial – You may like to commemorate the life of your loved one in a way that feels meaningful to you and your family

Professional help
Although grief is a normal part of life, for some people it can be very distressing. If this happens, professional help is recommended. You should seek professional help if:

- Your emotions are not returning to normal after a period of time
- You continue to feel numb and empty
- You continue to have physical symptoms
- You continue to experience nightmares or disturbed sleep
- You have no one to share your emotions with
- Your relationships or work are suffering or have changed as a result of the loss, and
- You have increased your use of alcohol or other drugs.

The most important thing to remember is that grieving is a healthy, normal process that happens to everyone at some stage during their life.

For more information on grief and loss and where to seek help, see the following:

- Gemini Medical Centre
  healthpromo@geminimedical.com.au or 07 4744 2242
- Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement
  www.grief.org.au or 1800 642 066
- Lifeline (24/7) 131 114
- Mensline (24/7) 1300 789 978
- Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au or 1300 22 4636

Emotional symptoms
- Numbness
- Sadness
- Anger
- Loneliness
- Relief and peacefulness
- Guilt and regret
- Fear and panic
- Depression
- Confusion and forgetfulness

Physical symptoms
- Shortness of breath
- Dryness of mouth
- Loss of appetite
- Crying
- Nausea or pain
- Tiredness and exhaustion
- Difficulty sleeping

Calendar

July

25  Quamby Rodeo
31-2 Aug Curry Merry Muster Festival

August

1  Cloncurry and District Race Meeting and Cloncurry Airshow
1-2  Cloncurry Merry Muster Festival
4-6  EHM shut down
5  New Starters Induction (Mount Isa)
6  Xstrata Mailman Express (Mount Isa)
7-9  Xstrata Mount Isa Rotary Rodeo (Mount Isa)
15-16  Burke and Wills Campdraft
21-23  Sedan Dip Campdraft and Races
22  Camooweal Drover’s Festival

September

2  New Starters Induction (Mount Isa)
11-12  2009 Westpac Cloncurry Expo (Agricultural and Mining Expo)
12  Cloncurry Race Day
12-15  Ernest Henry Memorial Art Show
17-20  Back to Cloncurry celebrations (125 years for Cloncurry Shire Council and Cloncurry State School)

October

1  New Starters Induction (Mount Isa)
3  Casa Grande Ball (Mount Isa)
5  School resumes (Queensland)
10  Cloncurry Cup Day (Cloncurry)
17  Battle of the Mines (Rugby League Competition – Cloncurry)
19  Student free day (Public schools, Queensland)
30  Cloncurry Hospital Auxiliary Fete
31  Xstrata Copper Anniversary Dinner (Mount Isa)
Congratulations to Samantha Haack who correctly guessed last month’s photo was from page 19.

Can you guess this month’s photo competition? You will find the answer somewhere in this publication.

For your chance to win, email dslade@xstratacopper.com.au before 18 August.

The winner will receive a double movie voucher and have their name published in the next issue of Mine to Market.

Classifieds


2001 GLS Pajero, 5 speed auto, roof rack, bulbar, side steps, towbar, rear cage, 105,000 kms, good condition $18,000 ono. Ph 0478 429.

2004 Subaru Forester XS Luxury AWD. Excellent condition, full service history, leather interior, electric sunroof, climate control, full electrics, roof racks and kayak holders, headlight protectors. 4cyl 2.5L engine, manual transmission. RWC, $17,000 ono. Ph 0422 416 603.

Four AC/DC Tickets close to the front of the stage for Sydney Concert, phone or e-mail for details dc-gangsta@hotmail.com or Ph 0412 018 303.

House Block in Normanton, Noel Street West, town water, electricity and town sewerage, $60,000 neg. Ph 4743 8862.

Quad bike. costs over $2,000 new. Used once only, asking $1,600 ONO. Ph 4749 0494.

Yamaha 2006, VStar 650 LAM VGC $8,000 neg. Ph 0428 434 506.

2005 Commodore Ute VZ SV6, 6 Speed Manual, Silver, 75,000km Excellent Cond. Rego & Fully Serviced. $21,990 ONO. Ph 0418 152 871.

Harley Davidson, 2002 Road King Classic. Excellent condition only 36,000 km. New rear tyre, 6 months rego, back rest, saddle bags, removable windscreen, Factory alarm system. Ph 0407 693 047.

For rent

Two bedroom unit, reverse cycle air-conditioning, fully furnished, undercover carport, $300 pwk. Ph 4743 8862.

House Block in Normanton, Noel Street West, town water, electricity and town sewerage, $60,000 neg. Ph 4743 8862.

Three bedroom house, incl pool, refrig aircon, polished floors, dishwasher, built-ins, $450 per week. Ph 0418 159 230.

Wanted

Notices

Congratulations to Ed Turley, Environment Manager North Queensland and Beth Lock on their recent engagement.

Congratulations to Rob Cavallaro, Mechanical Maintenance Supt at the Copper Concentrator and his wife Sam on the birth of their first child Oskar Michael Cavallaro born 13 July 2009 at Mount Isa Base Hospital.

Employees from Townsville Copper Refinery and Port Operations, Bowen Coke Works, EHM and Mount Isa Mines only are invited to list items for sale. Please contact your community relations department for the classifieds form.

All submissions are due to the Editor by the 3rd business day of each month. Mine to Market will not accept any commercial advertising notices.