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Bauxiting Times

From the Desk of the GM

Congratulations to the site for staying safe without a lost time injury for more than 100 days in July. Unfortunately a few simple incidents have meant that some of our people have been hurt recently. This is an important lesson of the fact that there are risks in everything that we do, so we all must focus on identifying and avoiding those risks to make sure we avoid injuries and stay safe.

You may have heard of the tragic death of a contractor who died from a fall at the QAL Alumina Refinery in Gladstone during July. This is a terrible, terrible occurrence and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Please remain vigilant about safety. Keep focused.

In the last few weeks we have been looking at the budget for 2006. The aim is to increase productivity and ensure that our costs are understood and controlled. Every employee, not just leaders, has a part to play in this. Part of your role is to ensure your activities are completed as safely and as efficiently as possible. Please share any of your ideas about efficiency and cost reduction with your supervisors.

I am looking forward to the Weipa Fun Day on 27 August and am keen to meet with as many employees and their families as possible. See you there.

Rob Atkinson
General Manager - Comalco Weipa



Croc Festival Rocks the North

The annual Croc Festival was held at Thursday Island this year with more than 1,000 kids attending from 28 schools across Cape York. Comalco is one of the main sponsors of this 100% drug and alcohol free event.

This year a group of nine employees hosted the Comalco careers stall at the festival, talking with students about their role within the business and their experiences.

Comalco's Bella Savo and Linda McLachlan were both integral in organising the trip and said that the careers market and Festival were both very successful.

"We hosted a careers stall for two days which gave us plenty of time to talk with a lot of students about working with Comalco," Bella said.

Linda said the highlight for her was the recognition by school students and their families of the wide employment opportunities for people at Comalco.

"We had representatives from a range of areas across Comalco and the students really benefited from hearing about the employee's day-to-day experiences, their training and job tasks," Linda said.

"I'd like to thank Henry Dan, Kevin Nixon, Dennis Blanco, Mick O'Shea, Richie Ahmat, Dwayne Savo and Kathy Pablo for their support and participation in the market," she said.

"Thanks also to people who offered their work profiles and the leaders who made their employees available."

Each night at the Croc Festival, school children performed dances for community members and other students.



Governor - General Visits Comalco's Weipa Operation

The Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery and Mrs Marlena Jeffery toured the Comalco Weipa Operation in July as part of a regional visit to far north Queensland.

They were taken on a mine tour by employees, which involved explanation of the entire mining process. During the visit the couple met with school students and community members in Weipa and Napranum.



(L-R) Comalco Managing Director-Mining & Refining Hubie van Dalsen, Mrs Jeffery, Jean Little, the Governor-General and Comalco Community Relations Manager John Graham



The Governor-General and Mrs Jeffery at the Western Cape College

Weipa Accommodation Benefit Rolls Out

Duane and Mary Singleton are the first couple to win the lotto-type ballot for a brand new rental home under the new Weipa Accommodation Benefit (WAB).

The WAB was rolled out in June, and offers employees an increase in their remuneration (pay) that they can use to choose where and how they live.

Duane, a Crew Leader for Comalco, said he decided to move onto the WAB because it gave them the opportunity of living in a newly built home.

"We were a bit sceptical at first, but when we realised that for me salary sacrificing the rent meant only paying about $140 per week, we decided that it was worth it," Duane said.

"We both think that the extra bit of money is worth the improved lifestyle of living," he said.

By the end of July, around 50 employees had signed up to the WAB. Greg Finch, Manager for Commercial Infrastructure said that people are gradually taking up the offer.

"Employees and their families are learning more about the WAB and some are choosing to receive the benefit instead of subsidised rent," Greg said.

"We're expecting a few employees to buy their homes before the revaluations scheduled for January 2006," he said. "Many people are weighing up the financial options and considering the changes they would make to their home."

A further eight new homes and 16 flats will be available this year, and will be advertised as they become available. Allocation will be by a ballot similar to the one used for the Singletons.

"The houses that Comalco are building in Weipa and the introduction of WAB, which gives people the option to share accommodation if they wish, means that more houses are also available for people on the old housing waitlist," Greg said.

"Our employees now have something they didn't before- choice," he said. "I'm happy that the WAB is out there and people can choose accommodation for themselves."

For more information on the WAB check the Commercial Infrastructure section of the intranet or call the team on 4069 7955.



Weipa Town Chief Executive Officer, Ian Pressley, with the winning ballot in the first draw for the new homes.



Mary and Duane Singleton with their two children Reece and Aaron in front of their new rental home.

What's Happening With Project NeWeipa?

The ongoing investment into Comalco's Weipa operation is continuing this year, with some important projects underway. Work is continuing on the new $55 million power station at Lorim Point, and tailings dams are being constructed at Andoom.

The civil and building work is being done by McCosker Contracting and is nearing completion. Subcontractors are being used for the specialist work in steel erection, cladding and laying blocks.

Sydney-based diesel engine manufacturing company, MAN B&W, will supply the six diesel generators for the power station. They currently have a team of 15 on site undertaking preliminary works in time for the generators to arrive on site during August.

Downer Engineering has been awarded the contract for mechanical and electrical work on the power station. Their team is expected to peak at around 50 employees by October.

Local company Q Birt has begun the preparatory work for the construction of two tailings dam cells at Andoom including building the main embankment walls.

The tailings dams are designed to maximise water recycling and are on target to be completed by the end of the year.

Both the power station and the tailings dam cells are being project managed by Bechtel.

Housing Update

PROJECT	Planned total programme	Completed to date
Floor coverings	564	436
Painting	450	426

Housing programme - figures from June.

EMPLOYEE CHANGES

New employees and those who are leaving...

HELLO:

Adrian Third	Development Crew Leader
Angela Third	Six Sigma Black Belt
Rebecca Boehm	Health & Hygiene Officer
Jim Francisco	Technical Support Officer - Cranes and Conveyors

GOODBYE:

Jarret Gibson	Trainee
Les Twidale	Mine Operator
Melissa Shepherd	Cape Kids Director
Davis Wilson	Trainee
Lionel Allen	Mechanical Tradesperson
Paul Reynolds	Electrical Project Officer
Ivan Ritchings	Mine Operator
Shane Harris	Mine Operator
Thomas Bosuen	Mine Operator
Peter Kaloczy	Mechanical Tradesperson

COMALCO

195 Tonne Wagon Arrives Safely in Weipa by Duane Singleton

There are plenty of risks involved in moving a 195 tonne wagon off a barge, especially when things don't go according to plan. However, as Duane Singleton writes, using the right risk assessments and looking out for your teammates makes all the difference.

During July the Comalco crane crew and the Goodline crane crew worked together to lift one of Comalco's new 195 tonne wagons off the barge. While lifting heavy equipment may not be an unusual task for crane crews, due to the barge missing the tide, the crane drivers and riggers had to completely change their approach to the task at hand.

The new wagon arrived on the back of a semi trailer on the barge. Our original plan was to simply drive the semi off the barge and then use cranes to lift the wagon off and attach it to a haul truck.

However, when the Comalco crane crew (Brent Stratton and Ian Cibau) turned up at shift start they found the semi trailer and the wagon were still on the barge and the tide was so low that they could not simply drive the semi off the barge. The barge operators also wanted the wagon off the barge so they could start loading for their return journey.

When I arrived on the wharf at around 10.30 am Ian and Brent, along with Comalco's Andy Fraser, Goodline crane crewmembers Cal Taylor and Peter Pearce and Dane Eden from Hastings Deering had already rewritten all of their Job Safety Procedures (JSPs) to accommodate the barge operators' request of lifting the equipment off the barge.

When putting together the JSPs, the team had to identify the safe working range the crane could work in, how everybody would communicate during the lift, how we would fit the tyres onto the wagon once it was lifted and then how we would safely hook it up to the truck.

Doing it safely meant moving the crane to the strongest structural part of the wharf, which we were able to identify through drawings provided by Comalco's Bob Brown. The most difficult part of the lift was rigging up the wagon, which was performed using a 150 tonne crane and a man box to gain easy access to the lifting points of the trailer. At about 11 am it became evident just how valuable the couple of hours planning, rewriting and discussing the JSP was when the wagon lifted off the barge and was moved into position on the wharf to have the tyres fitted.

With two tyres fitted the trailer was attached to the truck at around 2 pm.

The whole process was carried out without incident and I would like to congratulate and thank everyone involved.



Lifting the wagon off the barge.



The coordinated approach to the lift meant it was a safe and successful operation.

School Students Take On Comalco by work experience student Jasmyn Kofe

On Tuesday 14 June, year ten and 11 students from Western Cape College began their four-day stint doing work experience here at Comalco, as part of their Life Pathways assessment for Term Two.

This assessment gives students the opportunity to see what it is like in the work force. This helps them prepare themselves for their desired career.

With their career goals in mind, the students have been placed in different jobs around Comalco site; the students' placements vary from electricians and diesel fitters, to computer technicians and community relations.

There is no doubt that the students are very grateful for this opportunity and appreciate the time and efforts put into making it happen. Thank you to Mr Timm for organising placements and also the Comalco employees who have taken on students.



Rio Tinto Director Visits Weipa

Newly appointed Rio Tinto Director Dr Ashton Calvert and his wife Mikie visited Weipa in July to learn more about Comalco's operations and the various challenges associated with mining in a remote location.

The two-day visit included area tours and information sessions with employees. Dr Calvert said the trip was very informative.

"I was most favourably impressed with the high standards of commitment and professionalism of everyone I met," he said.

Dr Calvert has been a director of Rio Tinto since February 2005. He recently retired as secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Ashton Calvert with his wife Mikie.

Local Artist Awarded Honorary Doctorate

Congratulations to local artist and Thanikwithi elder, Thancoupie Fletcher James, who received an honorary doctorate from the University of James Cook (JCU) in July for her contribution to the art world and her outstanding service to the Cape York community.

Thancoupie, who grew up at Napranum, was the first Indigenous student to undertake tertiary training in ceramics and her art has been exhibited internationally. She now lives in Weipa and devotes much of her time to sharing cultural knowledge with local children and young people.

Comalco wishes to congratulate Thancoupie on this well deserved achievement.



JCU Chancellor Lt Gen John Grey and Thancoupie.

Project NeWeipa Safety BBQ

Project NeWeipa recently reached a significant safety milestone, having worked 250 days without a Lost Time Injury (LTI) at the end of June. Like Comalco, Project NeWeipa has set the goal of zero injuries and incidents.

A barbecue in recognition of this achievement was held with the power station civil and building teams (McCosker Contracting, Riggs Sheetmetal and Fitzroy Engineering) and their families.

Congratulations to the teams, keep up the safe work!



Ian Anderson, Comalco, cooks up a storm.



McCosker employee, Darryl Murphy, enjoys the barbecue fare.



The McCosker team celebrate their achievements at the recognition BBQ at the Lions Park.

Troy Cassar-Daley to Perform at Weipa Fun Day

Make sure you write down August 27 in your diary because this is the date for the much anticipated Weipa Fun Day.

Once again the weekend will feature a range of entertainment options, including rides, food, stalls, drinks, art competitions, mine tours and live music, with a Comalco-sponsored performance by special guest Troy Cassar-Daley.

Make sure your kids take part in the Comalco colouring-in competition, there are great prizes to be won. See posters around town and the Weipa Bulletin for the latest update.

Argyle Rocks Weipa

Employees of Argyle Diamonds brought smiles to the faces of some Weipa residents in July when they made their annual pilgrimage to site to offer Comalco employees discounted diamonds.

Dean Knoote, diamond cutter and sales executive for Argyle said he always loves his trip to the tropical north.

"Weipa is a great place to come and visit, I think the isolation and the tightness of the community are what make the people so friendly, also they genuinely LOVE the diamonds!" Dean said.

"We travel to a lot of Rio Tinto sites selling diamonds and I have to say that the people in Weipa demonstrate a high level of diamond knowledge and a willingness to spend money to get exactly what they want, be that the classic white stones or the highly desired, rare and expensive pinks," he said.

While he couldn't tell us exactly how much was spent, Dean said that it was a record amount for any staff sales visit.

This year the team also brought a 3.00 carat D coloured oval shaped diamond that they named the Big Kahuna.

"We didn't sell our prized possession, but a lot of people enjoyed trying it on for size!" Dean said.



(L-R) Robert Sills, Dean Knoote and Owen Williams with the Big Kahuna