BORROLOOLA’S CHRISTMAS BONANZA!

In December, MRM hosted the annual Christmas party in the Borroloola Council breezeway.

Around 80 local residents and MRM staff were invited to celebrate the Christmas season at the party featuring a guest appearance by Santa and delicious food supplied by the Paperbark Café crew.

Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the festive atmosphere.

The local community, MRM management and staff enjoyed the relaxing celebration. It was a great opportunity to forget the day-to-day running of the mine and just catch-up with the neighbours.

"Great friends, great food and a great time were had by all" said Bill Baird. The photos (on page 8) are definite evidence supporting Bill’s comment!

OPEN PIT PROJECT UPDATE

Since approval was received for the open pit development in October 2006, the majority of the site works have concentrated on the Barney Creek diversion. Preliminary works have also started for the extension of the open pit and other mine infrastructure.

All civil works are programmed under the approved Mine Management Plan to October 2007.

**River diversions**

Work commenced on the new channel for Barney Creek and by the end of December, 600m of the diversion channel had been cleared, the topsoil removed and stockpiled and approximately 340,000m³ of clay placed in the Flood Protection Bund around the open pit.

Work also started on a new haul road between Barney Creek and the McArthur River diversion and by December, this was 40% completed. This road is needed to move rock drilled and blasted from the new channel for the McArthur River which is being used as batter protection for the Barney Creek diversion and the Flood Protection Bund around the open pit.

By the end of December, 600m of the new McArthur River channel had also been cleared, the topsoil removed and approximately 80,000m³ of rock extracted.

Turkey nests (water storage dams) have been constructed on both diversion sites and both the Donkey and Emu borefields have been upgraded to provide adequate water supplies for construction and the mill. (Continued page 2)
A MESSAGE FROM THE GM

Happy new year to everyone.

2007 promises to be a significant year for MRM with work intensifying on the open pit development. In particular, the diversion for Barney Creek will really take shape. We are now well underway with the development program and work is going to plan. An update on the status is provided in this edition of MemoRanduM.

The big feature of this edition however, is coverage of the range of community events and programs we enjoyed to mark the end of 2006. Annual events that have become part of the traditions for Borroloola and which MRM is proud to sponsor include the Community Christmas Party and the Science Awards for students of the Borroloola Community Education Centre.

In December, we welcomed around 80 people to the Community Christmas Party which is a tremendous turn out. This is the seventh year we have sponsored the science awards and it is always great to see the efforts and creativity of local students. Congratulations to all the winners and to all the students who got involved.

Another feature of the Christmas holiday season is the work experience program we run with the Education Centre. This was the fifth year the program was conducted to help give year 11 students a feel for the type of careers available in mining. This program has another objective in helping make young people job ready. By being well prepared for work and what is expected of employees day to day, local young people can make strong applicants for our traineeship program. This can give them a great first step to a career in mining.

Each year, the students enjoy the work experience program, finding real value in the time spent at the mine.

We wish everyone a happy and successful 2007 and look forward to bringing you more news about MRM's development and our work within the community.

Brian Hearne
General Manager

ZINC ABOUT IT

Zinc performs a number of functions for humans and is found in various parts of the body.

- Zinc is an essential element in everyone’s diet for maintaining growth and health
- Zinc is also needed to maintain DNA, tissue growth and repair, wound healing, bone mineralization, proper thyroid function, blood clotting and cognitive functions
- Zinc decreases cholesterol deposits, promotes mental awareness and is vital to your ability to taste and smell
- More than half of the body’s zinc supply is found in muscle tissue
- Zinc is also found in other parts of the body, including bones, eyes, prostate gland, testes, skin and kidneys
- The best natural sources of zinc are oysters, nuts, wheatgerm, whole grain products, brewers yeast, meat, eggs, legumes and seeds
- A deficiency in zinc can cause loss of appetite, growth retardation and immunological abnormalities
- Smoking and alcohol decrease the human body’s absorption of zinc.

(From page 1)

Open pit

The northern face of the open pit flood protection bund has been relocated to allow for the expansion of the pit. Stage C of the open pit is now in development with overburden stripping the first step.

A new anti-pollution pond has also been commissioned as part of the water management strategy on site.

Mine infrastructure

A geotechnical drilling program has been conducted as part of the planning for four initiatives:

- A new haul road bridge to take overburden from the open pit to the new Overburden Emplacement Facility (OEF) being developed north of the Barney Creek diversion
- The relocation of the open pit bund wall to the south of the existing pit
- McArthur River chutes
- The airport extension.

Around 20% of the site for the north OEF has also been cleared and topsoil stockpiled in preparation for clay lining. A screening plant has also been established to provide graded rock for rehabilitation of the two diversions.

Development team

The main civil contractor on site is JMS. The geotechnical drilling is being carried out by Darwin firm, H2O.

Drilling and blasting is being undertaken by Nedrill which has relocated its operations from Adelaide to Darwin to better service both the open pit mining and the civil works at MRM.

Darwin firm, Hydraulink is providing the labour and equipment for the new screening plant.
NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, BORROLOOLA

You may not often think of New York, London, Paris and Borroloola in the same sentence; however Borroloola is making its mark in the art world.

Many of you are aware that the designs on the QANTAS jets which took Indigenous art around the globe were created in Borroloola. The region’s reputation as a significant centre for Indigenous art has again been reinforced by the success of a recent exhibition in Melbourne.

Local artist Nancy McDinny recently returned home to Borroloola after a sell out exhibition of her work at the Raft Artspace gallery in Melbourne.

Nancy enthralled the art lovers with her stories, songs and dances appealing to the sensitive Melbourne art market.

Nancy’s paintings are refreshingly original and a major part of her commercial success.

MRM covered the travel expenses for Nancy and her husband to attend the exhibition and hopes the success will generate more interest in the local art movement, translating to success for other emerging local artists.

MRM has been a significant supporter of art in the local area, contributing to two Territory or interstate exhibitions each year since 1995 and as a major sponsor of the Waralungku Arts Centre in Borroloola.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUPPLY TEAM

On 22 January 2007, the MRM Supply Team achieved three years of accident free performance.

During this time, no employees or contractors working in the Supply Team have hurt themselves whilst working at the mine site.

CONSTRUCTION VILLAGE

The new construction village is up and running with 80 new residents living within 31 demountable homes.

The village can house up to 155 contractors, who are completing civil works including the Tailings Storage Facility.

Each demountable home has five rooms, four sharing a communal bathroom, while the fifth room has its own ensuite.

Universal Sodexho are managing the village which is fully equipped with a kitchen mess and cool room, barbecue facilities, gymnasium and a commercial laundry.

There is also an internet café adjoining the manager’s office.

DIALYSIS PROJECT

The dialysis project is part of MRM’s commitment under the social involvement program and has moved several steps forward since the last edition of MemoRanduM.

In late November, MRM was able to bring several key people from NT Renal Services to Borroloola to consult with local stakeholders to discuss the project and agree on various responsibilities for the operation of the facility.

While installing a unit to house this important medical facility in the community may seem a straightforward exercise, there are many considerations and extensive planning is required to ensure the unit can operate successfully.

This recent site visit by NT Renal Services represents another milestone in bringing this important project to completion. The entire process has been a great example of the value brought by MRM and the government working together to deliver a project for the benefit of the local community.

The infrastructure required to support the facility in its final location was installed on 12 December and the aim is to complete the facility this year.

FIVE MINUTES WITH TRISH KENNY

What is your role at MRM?
I am the Environment Officer.

How long have you been at MRM?
About five wonderful months. It is quite interesting working with a diverse range of people. It is almost like “hmmm ... what will my job entail today?” I never seem to do the same thing twice in a week which keeps me focused and interested. It’s a nice change from working within the government.

What do you most enjoy about living in the Northern Territory?
The heat; the people of different nationalities you can meet; the environment (really great secret waterfalls around the place); being close to my family (Mum, Dad older brother with wife and kids, my younger sister, and 5 dogs in Darwin); and most of all the fishing!!! I often think about living down south, but they don’t get fish like we have here. I am determined to join the one metre Barra Club in 2007, even if it kills me!

What do you enjoy doing during your time away from the mine?
Apart from catching up on sleep, eating KFC and Hungry Jacks (please don’t tell my personal trainer), I like spending time with my family, fishing, horse riding and getting up to mischief!
STUDENTS’ SITE VISIT
The Year 4/5 class from the Borroloola Community Education Centre recently visited the mine. The students attended a presentation about the mine’s operations then had a tour of the recreational facilities. After a bus trip through the open pit the students enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Eurest catering.

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE
New surveys
The last month and a half has been very busy for the Environment Department. We have commenced two of the surveys as promised to the community and government in the Public Environmental Report, and also conducted the seagrass survey for 2006.

The first survey examines the fish upstream and downstream of the mine site. This will provide background information on the species found in the late dry season, in permanent pools. The sampling is conducted by qualified personnel (Professor Dean Thorburn and Andrew Rowland) who specialise in research of various fish species.

Permits have been obtained from the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines for all monitoring activities. We will be producing posters about the species found in the permanent pools, which will be displayed in the community.

During this survey, Dean and Andrew were fortunate to catch a Freshwater Sawfish. The monitoring program includes tagging these fish (also through a government permit system), allowing us to track where fish are travelling over time.

Data obtained from this survey will be compared to future surveys to manage and minimise the impact of the river diversion on the environment. The diversion channel has been specially engineered to ensure that fish passage is preserved up and downstream.

In addition to the fish survey, MRM employed another specialist to design and conduct a survey of birds around McArthur River and Barney Creek.

The purpose of this survey is to provide details on the number and species of birds existing in the area. This information will also be compared to future survey results. Birds living in the area include the Red Backed Robin and Purple Crown Fairy Wren, both can easily be seen when called, by making noises with your mouth on your hand.

The Seagrass Survey is now finished for 2006, recording the number and type of seagrass species around the swing basin at the Bing Bong Port. The results of this survey will be included in the next edition of MemoRanduM. We have previously noted an increase in the amount and species of seagrass in the area.

Additional resources
Stephen Clarke and Jonathon Cowie are also major contributors to the environmental management associated with the project, ensuring that civil works are conducted in compliance with our commitment to the government and the community.

We are also fortunate to have several personnel working in our civil operation crews who are experienced in running projects with stringent environmental conditions.

The project team has been busily preparing for the wet season, ensuring that all sedimentation controls are in place to prevent erosion and siltation of the waterways.

The Environment Section is very pleased to welcome a new team member in February. Bundy will have to deal with being hen-pecked by yet another female team member; however we all know he loves working with "the girls"!

Rehabilitation
Stephen Clarke is developing an experimental nursery to trial the germination of various species of plants to be used in the rehabilitation program. Part of the work includes germinating plants in the same material that is found in the river areas.

Seeds for grass, trees and shrubs have been collected from the local area. Stephen has also been involved in collecting some of the seeds near the mine site.

Stephen, Johno and Jane have been seeding some of the species collected on a trial area in the Barney Creek Diversion. We are now waiting for more rain before we continue with the seeding and planting program!

Government liaison
In November, MRM initiated a monthly meeting with the Mines Department. On alternate months, representatives from the department will conduct site visits and inspections at the mine and MRM will present the current progress of the project and future plans.

The meetings ensure that all work is conducted in accordance with the Public Environment Report and the Mine Management Plan.

Bundy and Trish have been busy ensuring all monitoring is conducted according to our Mining Management Plan including regular water, dust, soil, potable water, fluvial, marine sediment and seawater sampling.
MRM STAFF CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

MRM hosted two Christmas parties for staff and their partners, thanking everyone for their hard work and support throughout the year. As MRM is a 24-hour operation, two Christmas parties were arranged to ensure all staff could celebrate.

Both parties were held in Darwin, the first celebration was on 18 November at the Crowne Plaza and the second event was on 9 December at the Holiday Inn.

Brian Hearne made a speech at both events to thank staff and talk about the future of the mine moving forward.

Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner and music from the band Itchy Feet with many people seen performing various groovy moves on the dance floor.

Thank you to everyone who came along to make the celebrations two very memorable nights.

INDIGENOUS MINING ENTERPRISE TASK FORCE ANNUAL EVENT

In 2007, the Indigenous Mining Enterprise Task Force (IMETF) will celebrate its ten year anniversary.

MRM has been involved since it began and is still an active participant on the steering committee. MRM was one of the major sponsors for last year’s conference held on 30 November and 1 December at the Crown Plaza in Darwin.

IMETF was established to focus on increasing Aboriginal benefit from participation in the mining industry, supporting industries and enterprises. All the major NT mining companies support the organisation, as does the Department of Business Economic and Regional Development (DBERD), which provides secretariat and other administrative support.

The annual conference provided a networking opportunity for member organisations and interested parties to gather and learn from each others’ experiences in key areas, for example direct Indigenous employment strategies. This year there was an increase in the number of Aboriginal people who had established businesses ranging from crab farming to hospitality and cross-cultural experience tours. Many of these enterprises are a result of the opportunities provided by mining activities in their country.

Representatives came from the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia, from the mining industry, associated enterprises, government departments and Land Councils. The range of stakeholders represented clearly demonstrated the high regard and value placed on this organisation and the learning opportunities it represents.

MRM presented the work completed in its community relations, Indigenous employment strategies and Corporate Social Involvement (CSI) projects.

The guest speaker for the Networking Dinner was John Moriarty. John spoke of his long involvement in the land rights movement and the part mining had to play in the future of Aboriginal people and communities.

MRM would like to congratulate IMETF on the success of the event and looks forward to ongoing involvement in 2007.

CATERING FOR THE FUTURE

During December, MRM hosted nine graduates of the Borroloola Community Education Centre Vocational Education and Training Catering Course on a career advice day at the mine site to provide information on the variety of opportunities available within the mining industry.

While MRM may be known as one of the world’s biggest zinc deposits, the operation also supports one of the few major commercial kitchens in the region. With over 350 staff members living on site, meals are supplied twice daily via the kitchen.

The day gave the students an opportunity to witness a commercial kitchen in operation and talk to the Chef, Lee Harding about his experiences in the service industry.

“MRM places great value on supporting education in the region and working with the local schools to demonstrate a range of careers and opportunities that the mining industry can provide in remote locations” said Senior Community Relations Advisor, Bill Baird.

“A career in catering can provide a young person with the opportunity to travel the globe while working – it is a very mobile career option”.

Borroloola Community Education Centre Vocational Education and Training Catering Course graduates
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

Training over the last few months has been focused on hazardous substance spills and procedures for dealing with them.

Rope rescue has also been a priority, keeping the team proficient with abseiling techniques and knot work which is a vital part of height rescue.

In the early part of 2007, we expect to see an increase in new recruits to the team, including people from civil operations with work ramping up for that group.

First Aid will be a big focus and we are currently selecting people to undertake the Industrial Paramedic course. This training will focus heavily on scenarios that build skill levels and help readiness preparation.

The ERT would like to welcome the following new members:
- Anika Perera
- Natasha Elphick
- Nathan Roach.

YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE AT MRM

The MRM work experience program was established in 2002 to provide an opportunity for local Borroloola high school students to gain work experience at the mine and earn some pocket money during the school holidays.

For the December 2006 – January 2007 program, five students are working in a range of jobs within MRM, spending up to a week in each role. The experience demonstrates the skills required and the career opportunities available in the mining industry.

At the end of the work experience program, students are assessed against three competencies from the Business Services Training Package that contribute points toward their Northern Territory Education Certificate for Year 12.
SCIENCE AWARDS

The seventh annual MRM Science Award Project is open to all students enrolled at Borroloola Community Education Centre (CEC).

Each year, students from early childhood, upper primary right through to secondary education are invited to undertake a science project as part of their regular education studies.

Students may work on their projects individually or in groups where their work is monitored and recorded with the assistance of their teacher or supervisor.

Upon completion of their research, students must be able to demonstrate to a panel of MRM judges that they have been creative, persevered and carried out experimental research in an area which has everyday applications.

Award presentations for the best project in each category are made at the Borroloola CEC end of school year assembly. Students with the winning projects for each category receive a Certificate of Scientific Merit and a gift from McArthur River Mining.

John Moriarty and Bill Baird present Science Awards to students

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<th>Transition/Year 1</th>
<th>Years 2/3/4</th>
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BORROLOOLA’S CHRISTMAS BONANZA PHOTOS!