

Board briefly visits Porgera

By Sophia Magi

The Board of Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) this month made a brief visit to the Porgera gold mine on 4 May following a Board meeting in Cairns, Australia.

The BNL Board members who travelled to Porgera were Chairman Jinghe Chen, directors Qixue (George) Fang who is also the Executive Vice President of Zijin Mining Group Company Limited, Greg Walker who is also the General Manager of Pueblo Viejo (PV) mine in the Dominican Republic where Barrick Gold Corporation owns 60 per cent participating interest, and Dr Ila Temu who is also the Country Executive Director for BNL.

Mr Chen is also the Chairman of Zijin Group. Also on site was Vice President and Senior Counsel of Barrick Andrew Hastings who is the Board Secretary. In the group as well was Brian Grebenc the Director of Operations for Barrick, and Wu Xuefeng the Deputy General Manager and Legal Counsel of Zijin’s Gold Mountains Company based in Hong Kong.

The group was in Porgera for less than 24 hours after arriving about midday 4 May and departed the next day.

During the brief visit, the group met and held discussions with business leaders of Exploration and Mining on the 2017 Exploration plan and also visited the Yarik drainage and the Open Pit.



BNL Director and Executive Managing Director Richmond Fenn (from left to right), Dr Temu, Messrs Grebenc, Chen, Walker, Fang and Shaoyang Shen who is also the BNL Managing Director. *Picture by Sophia Magi.*

Prior to departure on 5 May, the Board members met with the mine technical team at the 28 Level offices where they were given an update on the current mining op-

eration and challenges.

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) through an equal partnership between

Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited. BNL owns 95 per cent participating interest in PJV and the remaining 5% is owned by Miner-

al Resources Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

Barrick awards Porgera for best safety performance



Haul trucks at Porgera. *File picture.*

By Sophia Magi

Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”)-managed Porgera gold mine has been awarded by Barrick Gold Corporation for Best Safety Performance, Large Mines, for 2017.

Barrick Chief Operating Officer (COO) Richard Williams in a letter to BNL Executive Managing Director (EMD) Richmond Fenn dated 6 April 2017, congratulated

the Porgera operation for being one of Barrick’s safety awards winners, and acknowledged an outstanding safety performance.

Mr Williams said in the letter, the Safety Awards recognises the Barrick mines that had an outstanding Safety and Health performance through teamwork.

“Becoming a leading company of the 21st century requires constant efforts to ensure that everyone at Barrick goes home safe and

healthy every day. Thank you for contributing to Barrick’s success and for serving as a role model for others. On behalf of everyone at Barrick, I would like to express our deep gratitude and congratulate you on this outstanding achievement.”

Mr Fenn said this hard earned recognition of the best safety performance of the Barrick Large Mines is a great accomplishment.

He acknowledged and thanked

his predecessor Greg Walker for his significant safety leadership contributions to this effort.

“Let’s not rest on our achievement but continue to improve our safety record, especially keeping the fatalities and serious injuries at zero”, he said.

BNL Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Safety Superintendent Mike Bowron said the use

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High school to become secondary

By Sheila Lasibori

Work is underway to enhance the infrastructure at the Porgera high school in Enga in preparation for the upgrade to the secondary level.

On 26 May this year, Enga governor Sir Peter Ipatas officiated at the ground breaking ceremony at Paiam oval witnessed by a packed arena of traditional *singsing* groups, school-aged children, youths and local level government (LLG) councillors.

“Thank you PJV, national planning office in Port Moresby, and the national government for the approval...this year we have spent close to K10 million to upgrade Porgera high school to secondary school”, Sir Peter said.

“So people of Porgera, people of Enga, we must know that there’s development in our area”.

He added it was good that such service was at the door steps of families so that students in Porgera would not travel to Wapenamanda or Wabag to at-



Sir Peter (centre) officiates at the ceremony while looking on are Tim (left) and LLG president Leo Kuala. Pictures by Elise Anga.

tend secondary schools.

The Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) has contributed K1.1 million toward the school upgrade.

Senior Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Timothy Andambo told the school-aged children in the audience, they were fortunate to have a secondary school within their own locality, as he shared the challenges he faced as a student walking long distances just to attend school, back then.

Tim also mentioned other areas in the community that PJV and the provincial government had stepped in to assist.

These included the Paiam hospital, the Kairik peace agreement and the efforts to restore normalcy at Tipinini.

Tim also called on the people to appreciate the assistance for the benefit of everyone, and most importantly to look after such services and facilities.

“Try and respect those who worked hard and put the money. We will continue to put money if you humble yourselves and become deserving citizens.”

To date, PJV through the government-owned tax credit scheme has done earthworks on sections of the school ground.

The K1.1mil assistance saw the work done on the computer and science laboratories, and will include the recreation hall.



Earthworks for the construction of a 4 in 1 classroom.



The science laboratory building.



The interior of the science laboratory under construction.



PJV Community Projects Manager Kila Kilaverave (left) in a discussion with the headmaster Tapian Tanda.

Porgera awarded for best safety performance

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of BNL's safety awareness programs - Visible Felt Leadership, Hazard Reporting, Courage to Care, We Care Audits, TOPS, – had enabled everyone on site to focus on maintaining safe work behaviors and the site as a safe work place.

He attributed the award to a site-wide collaborative effort.

“The combined efforts of everyone at PJV in 2016 has resulted in the site achieving a TRIFR of 0.24 (down from 0.41 in December 2015), a reduction in the number of hand and finger injuries and a reduction in the number of first aid injuries.

“This has resulted in Porgera being recognised as having achieved the best safety performance for a large mine within the Barrick group. This has been achieved by the entire site working together.

“2017 will see us attempting to consolidate and improve on achievements of 2016 with implementing vehicle monitoring system, and a safety management auditing program.”

Best Safety Performance Small Mine 2016	FATAL # of cases	Corp Audit Actions Overdue	TOTAL MEDICAL INJURIES Frequency
Pierina	0	0	0.26
Lagunas Norte	0	0	0.39
Jabal Sayid	0	0	0.39
Golden Sunlight	0	0	0.70
Hemlo	0	0	0.77
Turquoise Ridge	0	0	1.21

Best Safety Performance Large Mine 2016	FATAL # of cases	Corp Audit Actions Overdue	TOTAL MEDICAL INJURIES Frequency
Porgera	0	0	0.24
Pueblo Viejo	0	0	0.31
Veladero	0	1	0.28
Cortez	0	0	0.52
Goldstrike	0	0	0.95
Lumwana	1	0	0.35

 Fatal Disqualification



Part of the workforce at the Porgera gold mine that participated in the 2016 safety walk from the administration area to 28 Level carpark. File picture.

SAFETY FIRST

PJV backs urban clinic for maternity ward

By Sheila Lasibori

The Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) has boosted efforts by the Porgera Urban Health Clinic in Enga to construct a maternity ward.

This means the dilemma expectant mothers have traveling at least 100 kilometres on the Highlands Highway down to the Wabag hospital and even further down to Mt Hagen, will soon be over.

On 29 May this year, PJV donated building materials to the clinic located at Porgera station.

Health Extension Officer in charge of the clinic Jerry Maku and staff received the sawn timber, paints and a 9,000L tuffa tank.

The other materials include roofing iron, plywood, bags of cement, ridge caps, gutter, nails, and louver blades as well as other building-associated materials.

"A lot of mothers come here to deliver but we don't have a delivery area. I am thankful the management heard about my request and came in a fast way", a very appreciative Mr Maku said.

Mr Maku is also the health officer for Porgera district including the Paiela sub-district.

He also shared about the hardship the clinic goes through on a daily basis especially at the time the Paiam Hospital closed its doors to the general public.

"When the Paiam hospital



Meck and Dr Maku (shake hands) concluding the delivery of the donation as the clinic staff and PJV team look on.

closed we had a big problem because this small clinic is overloaded with patients. We treat a lot of patients and also send them to Wabag but its far away."

He also said Porgera had an estimated population of 67,000 people which is huge and with the limited manpower and resources it was hard for his team to look after the big population.

"I am very happy for the assistance. You help me construct a delivery ward. By doing this we are helping the community", he said.

Community Relations and Engagement (CR&E) Alternate Manager Meck Minnala led the PJV employees to the clinic on behalf

of the management and partners.

"When mothers and children are at risk we have to do something quickly. PJV management understands the stress you are going through since the closure of the Paiam hospital", Meck said.

He also called on the Porgera/Paiela community and the general population that reside in Porgera to look after such services.

"The people that come to deliver services such as health workers...they have to go through the extra stress trying to juggle between their duty of care to patients and then working with limited resources".

Meck also reminded those

who gathered that the company as a corporate citizen in the district can only do what it can to assist.

A male nurse and also a local leader from Paiela Nelson Tale said the company's assistance was appreciated as it would rescue expectant mothers traveling long distanced on the highway to the nearest health facilities.



Clinic staffs show off some of the donated building material.



Clinic ancillary staff at the site of the maternity ward.

A good thing about the donation, it's a partnership project where the company supplies the materials and government agencies provide skilled workers for the construction work.

PJV donated the building materials following a letter of request for assistance from Mr Maku.



SMILES ALL AROUND: CR&E Senior Officer Malip Maiapu (from left), Human Resource Superintendent Zhiyu Fan, Mr Tale and CR&E Superintendent Bernard Philipae at the clinic yard.



CR&E Administration Officer Janet Pundi (second from right) with the clinic staff and an onlooker at the clinic yard.

April/May Porgera Positive

Heli-seeding resumes at Porgera 12 years later



Environment Closure Planning and Reclamation team load fertiliser and seed mix into the heli-seeder bucket. **INSERT:** A helicopter at work spreading the seeds and fertiliser over the failure areas using the heli-seeder bucket attached to a sling. Pictures by Steven Kaikai and Judith Mameri.

By Ishma Haip

A 'heli-seeding bucket' is used to apply grass and legume seeds with fertiliser to the open pit failure areas to establish vegetation cover preventing soil erosion.

This method is used to cover

large areas of the mine's open pit (OP) that are inaccessible to employees due to the steep, unstable and hazardous locations known as the North Central Gully and South West Dyke failure areas.

On 7 April this year the Porgera environment team used

the method to reach inaccessible areas at the open pit, and will continue to use the method going forward. They first tried helicopter seeding in 2005.

Seed and fertilisers are applied using a heli-seeding bucket that is carried below the helicopter by a

sling. A dry mixture of seed and fertiliser is loaded into the bucket. A petrol engine mounted at the base of the bucket drives a spinning disc. When the pilot operates a trapdoor at the bottom of the bucket cone, the seed and fertiliser are released and are thrown sideways when they come into contact with the spinning disc.

The 'downwash' of air from the helicopters blades help to spread the seed and fertiliser over an area of 20 to 30 metres wide.

The operation requires comprehensive planning and good co-ordination for a successful job done safely by the ground crew, the pilot and the helicopter.

A loading site was selected at the Kogai bench No. 58 at the Kogai waste rock dump near the edge of the OP.

Asset Protect Department staff and mine operations are notified of the activity so there is no interaction with their operations.

The helicopter lands the heli-seeding bucket at the loading site and the loadmaster unhooks the bucket from the sling and the control-line. The environment team loads a pre-mixture of Diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser,

grass and legume seeds into the bucket. Once a 125 kg of the mixture is loaded, the lid of the bucket is firmly fitted back into position and strapped.

The loadmaster signals the pilot to lift the bucket. The opening and closing of the bucket to control the spreading of seeds is controlled by the pilot using an electrical switch that is connected to the bucket.

Helicopter seeding is best done in the morning especially when the weather is clear with no fog or rain, less windy and the helicopter perform better in the cold air.

The heli-seeding is rapid and takes only an hour to apply the seed and the fertilise mix to the 50 hectare pit failure areas.

"We are starting to see the grasses and legumes growing at the upper-section of the failure areas where there is less ground movement. This is a very positive start to the trial which is being monitored each month", the environment team.

Ishma Haip is the Reclamation and Closure Planning Advisor with the Environment department.

PDPA drafts strategic plan



Some PDPA members with Community Development staffs and visitor Nancy Fenn (seated left) after the workshop at Yoko. Picture courtesy of Fred Tieng.

By Sophia Magi

Porgera Disabled Persons Association (PDPA) convened its first ever Planning Workshop aimed at bringing together its 63 members to brainstorm ideas into developing a Strategic Plan for the Association.

ciation.

Thirteen of the PDPA's executives attended this inaugural workshop on 30 April facilitated by PJV's Economic Programs section under Community Development.

From this first meeting at Yoko,

a draft Strategic Plan and Business Plan 2017-2020 were developed.

The Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for the Association and aims to remove barriers and bring the development aspirations of the PDPA to reality. It is focused on promoting responsible and co-

ordinated actions to remove barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from enjoying the same rights as able bodied persons.

The Business Plan aims to promote investment opportunities to sustain the Association's activities.

On 12 May, the group had its second planning workshop purposely to review the draft Strategic and Business Plans.

"The Plans are an integral part of the association. PDPA's Strategic plan promotes social and economic improvement of people with disabilities in the communities, while the Business Plan drives their empowerment goals to become a self-sustaining entity for the interest of its members." Superintendent Community Development, Fred Tieng who facilitated the planning workshops emphasised.

Copies of the draft plans have been sent to the Department of Community Development, the Health Departments National Orthotic and Prosthesis Services (NOPS) Branch and PJV's Community and Social Responsibility department for review before it can be finalised and launched.

Also during the planning workshop, the PDPA added another milestone with the registration of its business arm, Ipili Ko

Investment Ltd, with the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA).

The registered business has seven directors consisting of wide representation from the Valley.

PDPA Secretary, John Pako said the plan provides or gives direction to the organisation in terms of what it can do to remove barriers that hinder the advancement of people with special needs.

"PJV through Community Development has worked with and assisted us greatly. We are happy, we took part in the workshop to put forward our views and plans and the Economic Programs team helped us through the process.

As excited as we are happy about our effort, we thank everyone for their support and we know it's a challenge we will go through to realise our dream of removing barriers to make rights real for people with disabilities," John said.

The Porgera Disabled People's Association (PDPA) was formed in 2012 to address and advocate for the needs of people living with disability in the Porgera valley.

The group currently has 65 registered members.

April/May Porgera Positive

Mungulep manages water project

By Sophia Magi

The communities of Mungulep and Kakadaka, just outside the Special Mine Lease (SML) and Lease for Special Mining Purposes (LMP) areas have officially taken over responsibility of managing the Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") implemented Supplementary Water Project for their communities.

This became effective on 5th May after the Mungulep water project obligation close out meeting was held at Yoko between the respective community representatives and BNL through the Community Development unit.

The meeting catered for BNL to hand over all responsibilities of managing the water project back to the receiving communities.

At the meeting it was agreed that all of BNL's obligations outlined in the Mungulep/Kakadaka Water Project Memorandum signed on 22nd July, 2016 had been fully met by 5th May, 2017.

Eleven identified locations in these two communities had a total of 17 tanks of varying sizes (9,000L, 5,000L, and 1,000L) in-

stalled and a Village Water Committee (VWC) set up for equitable distribution and management of water.

BNL also conducted five training sessions in composting, vegetable seedling, nursery, terrace gardening and transplanting.

The representatives of the two communities, the owners of the houses at locations where the tanks have been installed had to liaise with relevant leaders and community members to provide all the necessary assistance to BNL while it undertook works.

These included allowing community access, ensuring the safety of BNL employees and contractors while work was being done, agreeing to support and ensuring the agreed programs benefit the broader community.

The communities also had to form the VWC to ensure equitable and improved access to water is facilitated in the communities.

The water taps for Mungulep were officially opened by BNL Executive Managing Director (EMD) Richmond Fenn on 19 September, last year.

BNL had continued to man-



Representatives from Mungulep and Kakadaka with the community development staff after the close-out meeting at Yoko. Picture courtesy of Community Development Officer Max Piawen.

ager the project after tank installation up to May when it had met all its obligation requirements to hand over the project to the Mungulep/Kakadaka communities.

To date, a total of six communities within the SML have benefited from the BNL Supple-

mentary Water Project and a total of 76 water tanks of various sizes have been installed. The villages are Panandaka, Alipis, Apalaka, Timorope, Pakien and Mungulep.

BNL initiated the project to provide a clean and safe drinking water to communities within the

mine's operation areas and also those in the vicinity. The Community Development Section (CDS) within the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) department is the custodian of the project.

Mapai grateful to PJV for growth



Rod (right) receives a miniature model of a Mapai truck for PJV presented by Mr Luke. Pictures by Judith Mameri.

By Judith Mameri

Logistics and freight management company Mapai Transport Limited has thanked Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) for its growth as it opened a new depot in Lae, Morobe province.

At the opening of the Logistics and Freight Consolidation Depot, Mapai founder and managing director Jacob Luke spoke very highly of PJV's contribution to Mapai's success and growth as a business for the past 26 years.

"I am forever grateful to PJV

management team in their commitment and continued support in setting up and sustaining us to adequately meet the demands of the growing industry", he said.

The new depot at the old airport premises was officially opened 15 March this year and accommodates the Lae office for PJV – relocated from the vicinity of the main wharf.

A nationally-owned company, Mapai began operation in 1990, the same year PJV poured the first gold on 20 October.

He said the new depot would cater for the demand in freight

movements for the Porgera gold mine, especially with the addition of the transportation of pyrite concentrate to Lae for export.

"All these could not have happened if it wasn't for PJV's existence and support since the 1990s".

He added that with the support of PJV, Mapai was also able to obtain its cyanide certification from the International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC) for the safe handling and transportation of cyanide to the mine.

Reverend Baafekek Bamiringnuc of the Lutheran Church officiated at the opening.

PJV supports PNG businesses

By Judith Mameri

"I would like to think that there's a sustainable business in Mapai and various other businesses around the country that have been built on the back of Porgera's start-up."

Supply and Business Services Senior Manager Rodney Holmes said this at opening of Logistics and Freight Consolidation Depot for Mapai Transport Limited.

The new Mapai depot also accommodates the relocated Depot of Porgera Joint Venture (PJV).

Rod said, a number of very competitive tender applications were received and Mapai proved to be the 'deciding difference' and was awarded the contract for freight consolidation and customs clearance for PJV in Lae.

Mapai also provides trucking service to PNG.

"...their can-do attitude, the return back to the community that we see in the Enga Province, and PJV's commitment to returning business and encouraging business opportunities for people from the communities impacted

by the mine was part of our decision making process", Rod said.

He also said Mapai had consistently met PJV's expectations.

Rod congratulated founder and managing director Jacob Luke and thanked him for his visionary development of Mapai.

He also thanked the Mapai management and staff for their dedication in ensuring efficient flow of essential supplies to the mine site despite in light of deteriorating road conditions along

the Highlands Highway.

"It's been an arduous task... the last 12 months have probably been the hardest conditions...so thank you for the support Mapai and all PNG transport operators have given to Porgera", Rod said.

He added he was proud of the changes in logistics that was implemented in Porgera and hoped that these changes would not only benefit PJV but Mapai and the country for many years to come.



Rod (second from left) with Lae Depot staff: Logistic Officer Leah Yuamin (from left), Senior Supervisor Peter Aiyapa, and Logistic Administration Officer Julie Isaac in front of the PJV office.

SAFETY Column

FATIGUE - 'THE HIDDEN KILLER'

Many people consider tiredness to be a symptom of laziness and as something that can be overcome with will power or motivation. Unfortunately, this is not the case and tiredness and its effects are inevitable and can prove catastrophic.

Incident investigations have always identified fatigue as one of the major contributory causes of road accidents. It is called 'the hidden killer' and responsible for at least 30 per cent of fatal accidents. Yet, Fatigue is too often taken for granted.

How do you know when you are fatigued whilst driving?

When you have one or a combination of the following:

- You keep yawning,
- You have difficulty keeping your head up, or your eyes open,
- Your eyes feel sore or heavy,
- Your vision starts to blur or dim,
- You become impatient and make rash decisions,
- You feel hungry or thirsty,
- Your reactions seem slow,
- Your driving speed creeps up or down,
- You don't notice a vehicle until it suddenly overtakes you,
- You don't remember driving the last few kilometres.

You can prevent fatigue by:

- Have a good night's sleep (7 to 8 hours) beforehand,
- Take regular breaks, and
- When you stop to rest, get out of the vehicle and walk around for a while.

Don't forget:

- More than 50% of fatigue-related accidents occur between 00:01hrs and 06:00hrs,
- Caffeine is a stimulant that promotes false alertness, and
- Always work in line with the FRAT require.

REMEMBER!

THE ONLY SUBSTITUTE FOR SLEEP IS 'SLEEP'

Short-term measures may help you stay alert for a while, but eventually you will need to sleep, even if you are behind the wheel of a vehicle or operating an equipment. Sleep debt is cumulative and must be paid back.

Information courtesy of:

Visible Felt Leadership (VFL) Safety Update of 23 - 24 May, 2017.



An employee dozes off to sleep at his work station due to fatigue from insufficient sleep.



Caffeine is a stimulant that promotes false alertness.

EVERY PERSON GOING HOME SAFE AND HEALTHY EVERYDAY

Saibo gets degree & thanks PJV



Saibo (close to camera) on his graduation day at the Divine Word University in Madang province. Picture courtesy of Saibo.

By Sophia Magi

Ten years after starting employment with PJV initially as a graduate trainee with a diploma in Environmental Health Studies, local man, Saibo Kuringi achieved a personal milestone in March this year, when he graduated with a degree from the Divine Word University.

Saibo from Mungulep is Supervisor, Training and Safety with

the Processing Department.

Resuming employment in November 2016 after completing nine months of final year studies at DWU, Saibo acknowledged the leadership of the Processing department and the support of the Employee Development section for making it possible for him to get his degree qualification.

Saibo's attainment of his degree was made possible through a company full year sponsorship.

"My big 'Thank You' to former Processing Manager Glenn Kelly, Superintendents John Mark and Toke Kewe and Foreman, Moxie Yore for all your support. My appreciation also goes to Peter White and the ED team for facilitating school fee payments and the travel team for my travels to Madang and back."

Saibo started with PJV as a trainee graduate in 2006 with the Occupational Health and Safety

Department (OHS). His first role as data entry clerk.

Ten years later, with a family, four children and a full time job, the thought of returning to school seemed daunting at the time but Saibo said he was prompted by several things.

"Although I had a good amount of experience, I felt a little bit challenged by the current graduates coming out into the workforce with degree qualifications. Also I thought, in order to progress in my career, I needed to have a proper qualification as prerequisite," Saibo expressed.

He added he was very encouraged by the support and encouragement he got from his supervisors when he initially indicated his intentions to return to university to complete his degree.

Saibo said getting back to school wasn't any easier, assignments, essays, presentations kept coming and he was missing his children but he knew it was an opportunity not to be missed and so he worked hard and made sure he was on top of things and successfully graduated.

"I thank John Mark and Toke Kewe for allowing me to use some of the processing facilities to assist with my major research presentation work to quality for the degree.

"I admit it was challenging but

I couldn't give up. I have my mind set on bigger things from here," an optimistic Saibo said.

Processing Operations Superintendent, Toke Kewe said Saibo was deserving of the opportunity to return to university to complete his studies.

"You deserve the assistance from BNL for the time and commitment you served the company prior to your studies, not forgetting you are a local man and deserve to benefit from the opportunities provided by the company.

"Congratulations on completing your studies successfully and we look forward to working with you within the Mill Training Department", Toke said.

Saibo commended BNL for the educational support and encouraged employees to develop and advance their learning.

"You need to have an education to complement the experience gained that gives a person a better understanding in the principles and theories behind the work they do.

"You may have the skills to do your work but if you don't have book knowledge behind what you are doing, you won't be able to make a good manager or supervisor or foremen for that matter.

"Well that is my view and people may have their own opinion."

PJV shares communication experience at MinPet workshop

By Sophia Magi

Barrick (Niugini) Limited, as a member of the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, participated again at a PNG Resource Sector Media and Communication Workshop facilitated by the Chamber in April this year.

BNL Corporate Affairs Manager Patrick Bindon delivered on BNL's communication experience overseas and in Papua New Guinea at the two-day workshop held in Port Moresby from 12 to 13 April.

BNL Media and Communications Supervisor Sophia Magi also attended the workshop held at the Crown Plaza hotel.

Up to 30 communications and public relations (PR) professionals from PNG's resource industry as well as journalists from the mainstream media participated.

The workshop aimed to give the media sector a better understanding of facts behind reporting

of the resource industry and also to foster good relations between mainstream media and PR professionals in the resource industry.

Vice President of the Chamber, Richard Kassman opened the workshop emphasising that there were improvements in the trend of reporting on the resource industry but more was needed to be done to continue to educate the media about the real developments and challenges faced by the resource sector.

The Chamber again engaged the services of Australian PR agency Professional Public Relations (PPR). PPR General Manager Lee McClean delivered the workshop.

Sessions were held on a wide range of topics which included the role of PR in project feasibility and development, improved use of social media in communications strategies, maximising publicity outcomes with the right

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Participants of the workshop with presenters including Patrick (third left in white shirt) and Sophia (middle, right in white blouse) at Crown Plaza hotel. Pictures courtesy of PNG Chamber of Mines & Petroleum.

Farming bed maintenance training for locals



Rose (centre) demonstrates how it's done as participants watch closely at Yoko. Picture by Elise Anga.

By Sheila Lasibori

Local farming enthusiasts within the Special Mining Lease (SML) area of the Porgera gold mine recently got first hand practical skills on maintaining gardens.

The 'Planting Bed Maintenance' technique was demonstrated by the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) village agriculture extension worker (VAEW) Rosebenami Alua on 13 April this year to farming champions from Apalaka, Yarik, Timorope, and Alipis.

"They already know how to compost, raise seedlings, transplant seedlings but this maintenance training is not, so they came here for training".

She also said the idea of having champion farmers attend such training was so that when they returned to their areas, they could train fellow farmers in Tok Pisin and their own local dialect.

"Initially they used to just dig the soil and plant the crop and many times this went bad.

"This maintenance training is better than others. It's a good method to be used every time a crop is harvested and also to train their children to use", she said.

The process:

1. Create a hollow vegetable bed by digging out the inner soil from a used/existing bed,
2. Fill the hollow bed with items that are used for composting such as leaves and grass,
3. Put back the soil but this time the soil covers the compost,
4. Plant the seedlings.

According to Community Development Senior Advisor Regina Toropo, prior to any such training, there is a baseline survey.

The training starts with compost. Then a month later the seed raising training takes place using the compost. Then the training on construction of transplanting

beds and transplanting, followed by the training on how to identify matured crops ready for harvests.

She said the participants of the bed maintenance training were the contact farmers who already completed the other training.

These are the group of people that are regularly visited by the PJV village agriculture extension workers (VAEW) to ensure the farmers were applying the skills and knowledge attained.

"Through our monitoring visits we found that their problem

is maintenance training. They do not know how to improve the soil fertility of the beds.

"What we have done today is we brought those role model key people who have been doing this work and who are able to go out and train others", Regina said.

"The good thing about this training is these are leaders from different families coming in and they may many people behind them so when they go back they can train their family members.

"The people are very appreciative of the training that we have provided", she added.

A contact farmer Jackybeth Peter from Yarik was satisfied that they now acquired the skill to ensure the garden bed remained fertile for reuse.

"Previously we did not do this kind of work...now Rosebenami has taught us", she said as she acknowledged Rosebenami for other prior training.

"Then to plant again at the same garden we didn't know. We see that this is really good that we can go back to our villages and do the same", Ms Peter said.

She also briefly mentioned the scarcity of gardening land.

"This is better for us to make garden in the same garden. When the mine finishes we can live on this and help our families.

"Now we have a lot of food in the garden. We see that money is in our hands and after the mine leaves we will continue to plant and eat", Ms Peter said.

According to Alternate manager for Community Development Jacqueline Nen, the training was part of the PJV Food Security program.

"One of the challenges that our food security program faces is the scarcity of land. What we are doing now is trying to make sure that land is arable year in, year out", Jacqueline said.

She added the program was now being rolled out in SML areas

but have plans to extend into the Lease for Mining Purpose (LMP) areas and further out as well.

"I attribute the success of the food security program mostly to our village agriculture extension workers. The program has proven to be successful."

There are now three VAWs and, with their assistance, farmers produced an estimated 12 tonnes of vegetables in 2015 and 15 tonnes in 2016 with hopes of higher yields going forward.

Jacqueline said for her team to ensure capacity building and the sustainability concept sunk into what they were doing, the VAW component was introduced.

"It is going to be sustainable. The way we try to build sustainability into our food security program is the constant interaction and we've actually tried to give ownership of a lot of these programs to the community themselves.

"To ensure sustainability... one of the ways we've done this is to get the best farmers, model farmers, and best of the best that performed really well from the beginning", she said.

The PJV community development team also maintains close association with government institutions such as National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) for new discoveries on food crops.



Community Development Senior Officer Peter Tumun (left) consults two participants busy on their gardening beds. Pictures by Sheila Lasibori.



Vegetables in the backyard garden at Yoko.



A very appreciative Ms Peter has a positive outlook to gardening even after the life of the Porgera gold mine.



Ms Peter (right) and fellow farmer busy on their gardening bed.

JRP trainees impress @ OP

By Judith Mameri

“When I looked over to my blind side, the truck seemed very big and the road seemed to get narrower and I panicked a little bit”.

This was Yapara Siapo’s first experience behind a haul truck.

Yapara from Paiam and another Rollen Anton from Paiela are two of the first Job Ready Program trainees from Open Pit (OP) production, who have progressed from being Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO) to becoming competent 789 haul truck operators.

The duo on 10 April operated haul trucks unsupervised after being deemed competent by OP training supervisors Angela Gedi-on and Issac Mondo, and also they exceeded the required 250 hours.

“The size of the truck was intimidating but I received a lot of encouragement from the trainers. I got onto the trucks and now I am confident. The SOPs and safety

policies are there to guide us”, Rollen said.

Yapara and Rollen were part of the third batch of Job Ready Program (JRP) trainees in 2016. They were in the first lot of 21 trainees to receive permanent employment placements with OP production in November last year.

Prior to JRP, they did not have much going for them. Yapara who completed grade 10 in 2004 was engaged as an elementary school teacher while Rollen had dropped out of grade 11 at Kopen Secondary School due to tribal fighting.

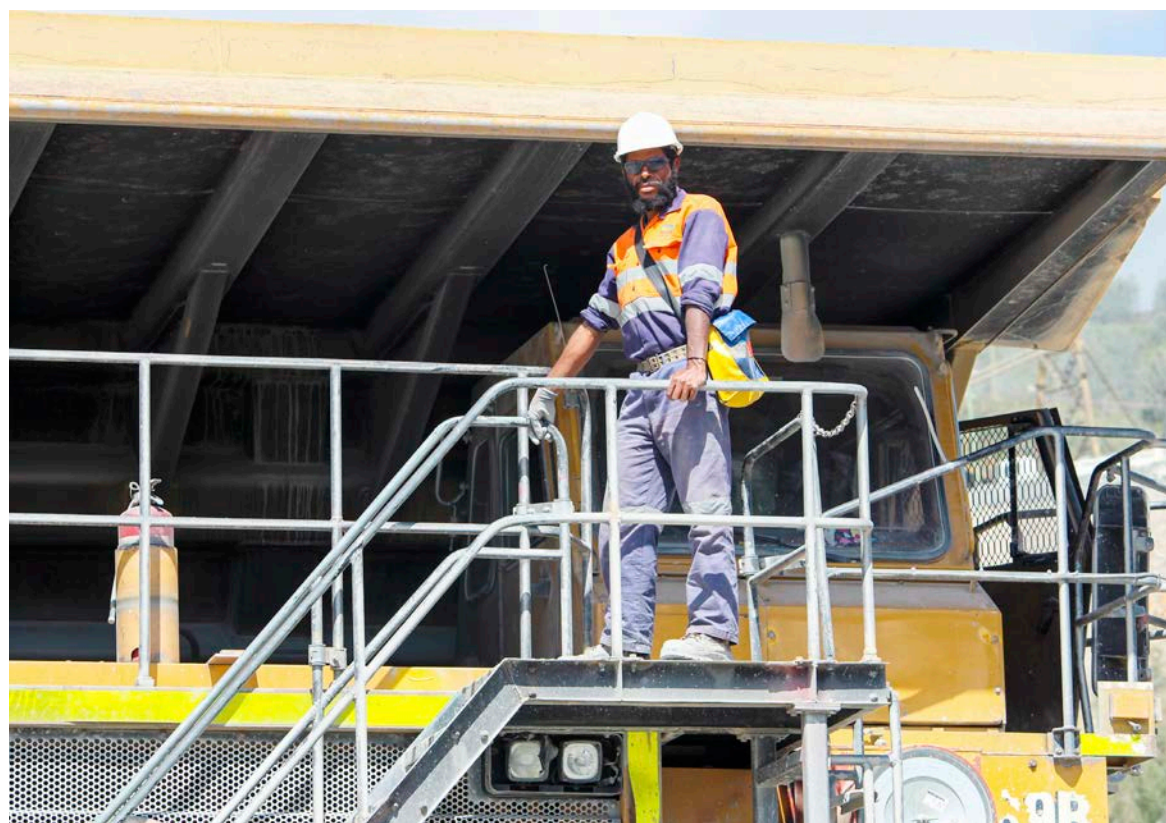
“I am enjoying work and thankful to the program that has given me a chance of employment with the mine operations.

“We covered areas like SOPs, procedures...they taught us well...how to operate equipment and work practices...familiarisation of different work areas and safety”, Yapara said.

Rollen said the trainers’ de-



Rollen stands on the steps of a 789 haul truck which he operates in the Open Pit. Pictures by Elise Anga.



Yapara stands on the steps of a 789 haul truck which he operates in the Open Pit.

livery, advice and encouragement has been very good and beneficial.

The OP trainers have been impressed with the progress.

“Their timing and attitude to work...we are very impressed”, Angela told another group of 20 JRP trainees who graduated with certificates 30 March this year.

She said the trainees first undergo full OP induction, theory sessions on safety and pit evacuation, radar alarm and monitoring procedures for new employees which is conducted by the Mine Geotechnical Engineering section. They then undergo training to become spotters and progress.

She added their educational background and the right attitude made communication easier and instructions were understood.

“Open Pit is a big area and is a critical area where incidents or accidents can happen...so attitude is important”, Angela told the second batch of trainees for 2017.

Meanwhile Isaac said the trainers and supervisors provide guidance to help the trainees reach a competent level to become productive operators, ensure they understood standard operating procedures (SOPs), processes and take care of equipment with safety as top priority.

“They are doing very well... they are quick learners”, he said.

The total number of JRP trainees now engaged with OP production is 26. Seven are undergoing training to be haul truck operators, four of them are female.

To date, 140 trainees have successfully completed the Job Ready Training program since 2016.

Two cohorts of 20 for the 2017 program have so far graduated.

Meanwhile, with the excitement of taking up new roles, both Rollen and Yabara have big dreams of where the Porgera journey may take them.

PJV shares comms’ experience at MinPet workshop

From page 6

story presentation, how to better inform the media on PNG’s resource sector, brainstorming techniques and how to improve media coverage.

Various resource project companies in the country made presentation and included ExxonMobil, Wafi-Golpu, Aligned Energy Limited and Barrick (Niugini) Limited.

Patrick deliberated on why there was a difference between domestic and international re-

porting on events centred in PNG.

He told the workshop that one of the key reasons for receiving bad press was related to pre-conceived perceptions held by the international media.

Negative publicity, he said centred around myths and misconceptions which then gave rise to an unconscious bias in the way news is received and reported about a project.

He highlighted certain reports also carry undeserved credibility where there is often a lack of evidence to support the story.

“Unsupported allegations about incidents or events that align with stereotypes, or that echo past events that may have been true, are also more likely to be picked up – they can sometimes be given a level of credibility that they do not deserve.

“Activist groups in particular are becoming aware of these phenomena, and in our experience we are seeing their communications strategies evolve to take advantage of this trend. The rapid rise of social media as a source of news is also contributing to this trend”.

Patrick said in order to address such negative press takes deliberate and consistent effort to change the way people think. Cultivating overseas media contacts, site visits, finding or encouraging credible independent voices who are prepared to counter stereotypes and misconceptions and the use of consistent information can help to reduce negative publicity.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion facilitated by media expert Brian Gomez.

The Chamber Public Relations and Communications Manager

Mackhenly Kaiok thanked all the participants for making the time to attend the workshop.

He said the Chamber hoped that all had learnt something from the workshop.



An attendant talking at the workshop as Patrick looks on.

Rachael clocks 25 years and still counting...

By Sheila Lasibori

“Without my family’s support I don’t think I will clock 25 years of service. They have been very supportive indeed all through”.

On 26 April this year, Benefits Supervisor Rachael Pundi marked 25 years of service to Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) from her humble beginning back in 1992.

Rachael attributed her achievement to the undivided support of her six children and the better half.

The second child in a family of six from Kandep in Enga, Rachael joined the Porgera operation while in her 20s.

“I see PJV is providing employment opportunity to locals”, a very appreciative Rachael said.

Her typical days at work are the long hours, but the best part has been the customer service to colleagues with numerous queries.

Rachael attained her primary school certificate from Kandep Primary in 1984 and then completed her Year 10 at the Kandep High School where she attained the school certificate in 1988.

In 1989 Rachael actually made her maiden entry to the Porgera operation as a fax operator – a job title that has silently vanished in the face of improved technology.

A year later she left the operation, but returned two years later

to clock an impressive 25 years of service to PJV.

Rachael began her 25-year career with PJV on 26 April 1992 as a personnel clerk. On 26 March 1994 she was the Records Officer, and then the Trainee Benefits Officer on 29 July in the same year.

On 26 June 1999 she served as the Benefits Officer.

In 2005 Rachael attained a Certificate in Human Resource (HR) from the Australian Human Resource Institute. Then from 2006 to 2008 Rachael successfully completed the Diploma in Human Resource Management program at the Divine Word University in Madang province.

A year later on Boxing Day she was given the Senior Benefits Officer role. Then came 23 January 2012 when she was promoted to the position of Supervisor in the Remuneration, Grading and Benefits Section within the Human Resource and Employee Development (HR-ED) department.

Rachael’s simple words of advise to the younger Porgera and the general Enga generation is, not to give up and better themselves and also to take their employment seriously and act in accordance with the company policies.

“In this way you will have courage and move forward”.

Senior Manager, Corporate



Rachael (centre) with her certificate is flanked by Sonja (right of Rachael), James (standing, left), Tim (standing second from left) and colleagues. Picture by Judith Mameri.

Social Responsibility (CSR) Timothy Andambo said Rachael is probably the only employee who has shed more tears at the various *haus kraï* (house of mourning) for deceased PJV employees.

Part of the role for Rachael and her team is to represent the company at many *haus kraï*.

Tim spoke very highly of Rachael’s attitude to work.

“She is perfect and has extremely done a perfect job.”

Remuneration, Grading and Benefits Superintendent Sonja

Weinlich said Rachael had clocked more than 9,125 man-days in the last 25 years.

“...from us at the HR, well done for achieving this milestone. Your wealth of knowledge that your contribute to the team is invaluable”, she said.

Recruitment Specialist James Bogg described Rachael as a team player.

“Rachael is a very good person to work with not only as a colleague but also a mother and a Christian.”



Rachael (seated right) with colleagues in this 1989 file picture.

An emotional farewell ends 29-year era for Iparas

By Elise Anga



Iparas Kolongi.

The community relations and engagement team here at the Porgera gold mine in April this year bid farewell to Iparas Kolongi also known as ‘consultant’.

According to Community Relations and Engagement (CR&E) Superintendent Bernard Philipae, the term ‘consultant’ referred to someone who had rich knowledge and experience in a field of work.

“This word reflects you because of the much assistance

you’ve provided and the work you have done with the community for the operation of the mine”, Bernard told Iparas.

A 29-year career here with Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) came to an end 9 April this year when a brief luncheon was hosted to farewell Iparas who hails from Yarik village within the Special Mining Lease (SML) area.

The gathering was also attended by members of his family and PJV colleagues.

According to Bernard, Iparas’

career started in 1993 when he was employed as the Community Relations Officer (CRO) in the award category by the then Placer Dome company. But prior to this in 1988, he had worked as a security guard for the Ipiili Porgera Investments (IPI) Group of companies.

In 2003 he was promoted to a national staff category CRO.

A very emotional Corporate Social Responsibility Senior Manager Timothy Andambo told members of the Kolongi family that Iparas was a fatherly figure in CR&E.

He said Iparas and fellow senior and elderly CROs in CR&E section were very supportive when he was tasked to lead the CR&E team.

Due to medical reasons CR&E bid farewell to Iparas but due to his outstanding 29-year career, Tim hoped that Iparas could return to work after a year.

“I found courage in them... they are the ones who do the job and now I am in the position where I am today...Iparas I find it hard to let you go”, Tim said.

Sharing similar sentiments, CR&E Manager Meck Minnala said Iparas was a fatherly figure and described him as a sincere

employee who did what was right and morally accepted.

“There’re only a handful of people in this world that draws the line and say this is right and this is wrong.

“Consultant is someone who I’ve seen that draws the line. If we have a lot of people like him then this society will be much better”, Meck said.

He also said one of the highlights in Iparas’ career was the assistance he provided toward the publication of the book titled Field Guide to New Guinea – Birds of the Kaijenda Highlands by American anthropologist Dr William Thomas last year. The book contains names of the native birds found in Porgera and parts of Enga and also in Hewa within in Hela province.

Iparas did not say much but thanked his superiors and colleagues for their help and working with him throughout his career in the operation.

He said he would be away from work but he will also assist the company whenever there is a ‘call’ for him to step in and assist.



Tim (centre) with Iparas and his family members shortly after the farewell luncheon. Pictures by Steven Kaikai.

Peter thanks Porgera team as PV beckons



Some members of the ED team with Peter (centre) shortly after the farewell morning tea. *Picture by Steven Kaikai.*

By **Sheila Lasibori**

The team responsible for employee development (ED) here at the Porgera Gold Mine has achieved a lot in the last two and a half years.

This was according to the Employee Development Manager Peter White who left Porgera in Enga, Papua New Guinea for the Pueblo Viejo (PV) mine in the Dominican Republic.

The PV mine is operated by the Pueblo Viejo Dominicana Corporation—a joint venture between Barrick Gold Corporation (60%) and Goldcorp (40%).

“The ED team...we have achieved a significant amount of progress and improvement in the last couple of years. We came in at the time and an awful lot of work had been done that needed to be implemented.

“The team did a lot of work

with the initial roll-out of Oracle and ETAMS and without their help, there wouldn't have been success”, Peter said.

He also acknowledged the individual members of the section that are still with the organisation and those who had since left, for putting in the hard yards in all the background work for employee development across site.

During a brief farewell morning tea for Peter on 18 May this year, Senior Manager for Human Resources and Employee Development David Lilley said, Peter had made a significant improvement to the whole employee development process within the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV).

David also said Peter's most significant contribution had been in the implementation of the Employee Training Assessment Management System (ETAMS) that included getting all the information

into a system that was accessible, easy to track and monitor as well.

“So that's been one of the biggest achievements in Peter's time here but other systems and processes as well. It is a real strength of yours and we've all benefited from what you brought.

“On behalf of the HR, ED and Media teams I would like to say thank you very much to Peter for all your contributions and efforts in the last two and a half plus years”, David added.

Advisor for the Job Ready Program (JRP) Tum Erasi was thankful to Peter for the contributions toward the Program.

Senior Advisor for ED Tems Ninjipa, remembered Peter as a newcomer who first joined the section in October 2014, raising some curiosity among members on what type of personality Peter would have.

“After all we became a very

good team and family. You're going is sad for us but life goes on.

“You made a lot of difference in our section. You showed us everything and we will carry on from where you have left”, Tems said.

He also said Peter's contribution was not only within the IPSE-ED section but also across site.

“There is going to be a big space that is hard to fill because all of us have different personality and Peter is one of the special people in our section that is going”, Tems added.

Peter was also thankful to David for the knowledge he gained around HR because he came from a maintenance and operational background.

Peter's new role is Learning and Development Manager.

He said his new role is another big challenge.

“I just saw the new opportunity as a career choice so there are

opportunities there that I couldn't ignore. Quite often opportunity knocks on your door and you say no and then you regret it for a long time.

“I was that close to staying because this is a great job, you are a great team of people, it's a good lifestyle choice to be working here at PJV.

“Thank you very much. It's been great working with everyone of you”, Peter added.

The Porgera Gold Mine in Enga is operated by Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) through an equal partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited. BNL owns 95 per cent participating interest in PJV and the remaining 5% is owned by Mineral Resources Enga (MRE) Limited – a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.



ON THE JOB: PJV-sponsored Caspar Solo Puli (centre) in a discussion with Peter, while looking on is ED Officer Bessie Agibe in this 28 December 2015 file picture.



**Every Person
Going Home
Safe & Healthy
Everyday**



ON THE JOB: Peter presents the certificate of completion to a JRP Batch No. 1 participant Mathew Aiyu as Tum looks on, in this 12 April 2016 file picture.

2016 environmental champions awarded

By Elise Anga

Employees at the Porgera gold mine have been recognised for their efforts in ensuring high levels of environmental performance throughout 2016.

Every year individuals and teams across site are awarded for their outstanding efforts in the various environmental achievements and projects they deliver in their respective work areas.

This year the award ceremo-

ny was held at the workshop and disposed appropriately.

General Manager Operations Damian Shaw recognised the good work this team had done in assisting the operation remain compliant.

Mobile Equipment Maintenance Superintendent Craig Facey was appreciative of the recognition given to his team as he called upon them to keep up the good work.

He also said there was still

They were recognised for the successful housekeeping project, signage at the gas cylinder storage, hydrocarbon management in the fuel unloading area, reagent management in the processing area, reagent recovery after Sodium Metabisulfite (SMBS) spill, and error-free dispatch for the environmental monitoring samples.

Senior Manager Supply and Business Services Rodney Holmes also thanked the environment team for recognising the work that

the supply team does.

Rod said looking after the environment was not just the job of the people that were awarded but everyone's, both on and off site.

"Well done to the supply team and for all our efforts and the environmental results that we got for 2016 and thanks very much environment for the recognition".

Then on 5 March, it was the Underground Mechanical Maintenance team.

They were recognised for their tireless continuous improvement efforts maintaining the oil – water separators within compliance.

UG Mechanical Superintendent Gerard Montafia said the recognition by the environment team was for the good work his team had done in the previous years.

"Previously we weren't compliant with our oil-water separators and the discharge limits.

"Everyone can give you a pat on the back because we all worked closely with environment and they have all helped us work together with the team", he said.

Damian also commended the continuous improvement efforts by the team to turn the outlook of the workshop for the better as compared to several years ago.

"The change that's happened over the last 4 or 5 years in this environment has been outstanding and that is driven by good leadership but also the co-operation and dedication from you guys."

Reclamation and Closure Planning Superintendent Paulus Bak, Gerard and Damian talked about how clean water was now being safely discharged into the environment while oil was maintained for other operational uses.

Damian also said another reason was that globally it was now expected by governments for everyone including businesses to look after the environment.

"You see what happens now a days, the environment is so important to governments that they actually shut mines down for not

doing the right thing or they put people in jail", he said.

He also said one of the huge benefits of giving attention to the environment was that environmental leaders were being moulded.

"You can take the things you learn here to your family and you can improve the environment."

On 27 March, the Maintenance Site Services (MSS) teams were awarded for their good work at the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and plumbing.

The STP team was recognised for its consistent maintenance of STP effluent within compliance.

Then the plumbing crew was rewarded for its efforts in plumbing works assisting the STP team maintain compliance

Four employees received the individual recognition while an employee was recognised for her efforts in data compilation and the continuous communication with the environment team.

Manager Mechanical Maintenance and Technical Services – Reliability Don Nurthen said there had been a lot of work put in by his team overall.

"It has not been easy, a lot of focus and hard work by everyone".

Then on 1 April, the Fixed Plant Maintenance team concluded the round of 2016 environmental awards.

They were awarded for the waste segregation schedule, improvements in waste, oil and cyanide management programs, as well as maintaining hydro-carbon discharge at minimal levels.

Oa said it was because of everyone's effort that the mine operation maintained certification.

A very appreciative Fixed Plant Maintenance Superintendent Shane McGillan told his team, "keep up the environmental efforts. That's all we want to see."

Other environmental champions in the Mining department included the geotechnical team, geology, mine technical projects, mining projects and UG miners.



The UG mechanical maintenance team with Gerard (back, left to right), Paulus, Damian and Mr Fenn together with EMS & Chemistry Senior Advisor Paula Trawanga (front, left). Pictures by Elise Anga.

nies started 9 February and concluded 1 April at the respective work areas, recognising outstanding performance for the 2016 operational year in the areas of waste management, pollution reduction, hydrocarbon management and compliance.

Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL") Executive Managing Director Richmond Fenn stressed the importance of employees taking home the skills learnt to help manage the environment back in their local communities.

"This is the same principles globally and locally. It's the same as safety and our expectation.

"Our hope is that this will not stay on the job site...that you take it home, teach your children, that they grow up with this kind of knowledge to help the world to be a better place", Mr Fenn said.

On 9 February, the Surface Mobile Maintenance workshop team with two contractors were recognised for efforts in constantly striving to meet the monthly EMS hydrocarbon water discharge targets and best practice.

The leadership award went to Wilson Pyatii for his dedication to hydrocarbon waste management when attending to break down in the field. He ensured the waste absorbent pads were taken back



Wilson Pyatii (centre) of the Dozer workshop receives his merchandise from Charlie as Damian looks on at the 789 workshop yard.

more room for improvement.

EMS and Chemistry Superintendent Oa Oa'ava said most work carried out at the mobile workshop uses a lot of oil and chemical.

"But when you work with such substances, you dispose the substances at the proper place that your procedure tells you to dispose, that is the important manner in carrying out jobs", he said.

Manager Environment Charles Ross stressed the importance of teamwork in implementing EMS, as he commended the team for a clean Lube Bay area.

The next ceremony was for the six employees at the Supply department on 21 February.

Damian (left to right), Delma Yakopis and Lucas Mongi of the Dozer workshop and Charlie at the awards event.



The 2016 environment awards in pictures



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