The Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) owned and operated Porgera gold mine reached a milestone in March, achieving 20 million ounces (oz.) in gold production since the start of operation in 1990.

Processing department attained the +20 million oz. on 6 March after 7,044 ounces were produced on the particular day.

Marking its significance for the 26 year-mine operation, six of PJV’s longest serving employees, together with a handful of production staff were invited by management to witness the historic gold pour event.

The long serving employees who all had served well past 20 years with the operation included Anawe Production Supervisor Moses Pipi, Tawisakale Production Foreman Mark Fleay, underground mine survey chainman Nick Karapi, raisebore underground mine senior trainer Thomas Kotange, mine haulage open pit digger operator Kamannda Netes, and mine open pit road and dumps dozer operator Kimgipa Mungalo.

General Manager Operations Damian Shaw on behalf of the management commended the efforts of those who had been involved with the operation since the first gold pour in 1990 and those who were still with the operation working safely.

“This has been a great effort by everyone, the employees, the community, the government and all other stakeholders. To those who work behind the scene to make it possible to achieve this result, congratulations. Not many mines meet 20 million ounces...it is a rare achievement.

“Porgera still has a long life so let’s get another 20 million,” Damian said.

The +20 million oz. came at the back of more than 143 million tonnes of ore that have been mined in both the open Pit and the underground since 1990.

Anawe Mill Production Superintendent Anthon Pakyo, acknowledged the contributions from all of the Porgera mine site departments, adding there had been challenges along the way but as a team, the site has achieved this.

“For the processing team, this is a real milestone achievement as we all know it has been challenging to get this far.

“We can hope for some more million ounces in the future through our continued team efforts,” he said.

Porgera is the second largest gold producer in PNG and its contributions over the last 26 years have placed PNG as the 15th largest gold producing country in the world. (https://www.sharpspixley.com/articles/lawrie-williams-worlds-top-20-gold-mining-nations-2015_248053.html)

As well as achieving this significant production record, PJV has also had other significant achievements that continue to make it a reputable operation in PNG.

Porgera accounts for an average 10 per cent of Papua New Guinea’s total exports and is a major contributor to the PNG economy in taxes, duties, royalties and infrastructure development, among others.

PJV has also managed over 570 Tax Credit Scheme (TCS) and Infrastructure Development Program (IDP) funded projects at over US$74 million (K235m) since the start of TCS in 1992.

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Source: Metals Focus, LawrieOnGold.

GOLDEN MOMENT: Damian (standing, fourth from right), Anthony (standing, third from right) with processing and production staff including six of PJV’s long serving employees (front, kneeling) display gold bars produced on the day.
PJV replaces decks on Tau Bridge in Enga

By Sheila Lasibori

Tau Bridge at Maip, Multaita, along the Laiagam-Porgera part of the Highlands Highway in Enga has received new decks thanks to the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV).

On 4 and 5 February this year, the PJV Community Projects road works team replaced the decks on the 25 metre, eight (8) bay, compact 100, Bailey Bridge located about 46km down the Highway from the Porgera gold mine.

This section of the Highway was closed to motorists from mid-day to 5pm on 4 February and on the 5 February, it was closed from 8am to 1pm to allow the decks replacement work to go ahead.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Emergency Response (ER) Fire Safety Officer Koraken Paso was on hand to ensure workmen were properly harnessed to work over the exposed areas of the bridge.

The works was carried out after the Porgera miner Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) received a formal request from the Department of Works (DoW).

The PJV Local Procurement Policy was used to engage local contractors for the work on the bridge.

Funding for the work on Tau Bridge will be made in an application to the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) for retrospective funding to be approved which would come under the Transport Infra-

Public servant receives key to house

By Elise Anga

Ruben Tongole, a community development officer with the Porgera District Administration, is a happy man after having his house renovated by Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) this month.

PJV undertook maintenance work on Mr Tongole’s house, under Stage Two (2) of the Public Service Housing Maintenance Program, funded through the government’s Tax Credit Scheme (TCS) which PJV manages.

Mr Tongole received the key to his ‘new look’ house 16 February this year at Paiam witnessed by Deputy District Administrator Epenes Nakipane and local contractor representatives.

Through PJV’s Local Procurement Policy, local contractor Mamak Company Limited was engaged to do the maintenance work on the H40 type house.

The contractor provided the labour while PJV provided the building materials.

Serving the Porgera distribute for more than 20 years, Tongole is the sixth public servant in the district to benefit under the State Two maintenance program.

“The house was not in a good condition...water was leaking from the roof, floor tiles were worn-out, the timbers of the step-ladders were wrecked.

“The house is where the man’s life is and I am more than happy for the work that PJV has done”, a very appreciative Mr Tongole said.

The maintenance work took under three months to complete.

Mr Nakipane thanked PJV for the work that PJV has done so far. This is not the first house but there are other houses that have been renovated...and there are other areas too that we receive assistance such as community development, and sports.

“The district administration is very appreciative of what the company has done so far. This is the sixth public servant in the district to benefit under the State Two maintenance program.

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“Such services that we receive from the company are a bonus to us...and we really appreciate what the company has done so far. This is not the first house but there are other houses that have been renovated...and there are other areas too that we receive assistance such as community development, and sports.

“Housing as we all know is an important element in our lives...and I can see the emotional gentleman here about how it has impacted his life and it goes to show that housing, clothing, food...these are key elements of every human being’s survival on earth”, Daniel said.

TCS Superintendent Derick Kundi thanked the contractor for professionally executing the work.

Mr Nakipane also signed off TCS Form Three (3) confirming that PDA had received the renovated house from PJV.
PJV assists DoW on Yambali slip

By Sophia Magi

At the request of Department of Works (DoW), Porgera Joint Venture has completed remedial civil works on sections of the Highlands Highway in Enga.

The temporary remedial work between Laiagam and Porgera started 31 January and ended 16 March at Yambali about 43.4 kilometres from the Porgera mine.

The formal request was from the Enga Provincial DoW.

PJV Community road works Senior Engineer Ronald Taragau said more was talked than planned due to poor ground conditions caused by excessive rain water and downslope movements.

Another contributing factor to the delay was the poor sub-base fill which had to be removed and a proper engineered-fill had to be compacted at the sub-base.

He also said the distance between the Porgera mine site and the Yambali slip also delayed the PJV team from transporting materials and equipment on time.

PJV engaged 23 labourers through a local contractor and supervised them for the three-month Tekln remedial civil works which was executed safely.

The technical supervision and liaison with the local community was conducted by DoW.

Adverse weather conditions had caused parts of the recently sealed section of the highway to slump and slip making it difficult and unsafe for motorists.

The wall failed down-slope to a depth of at least two metres restricting passage to one lane.

On 2 March, Enga Works manager Stanley Ambrose had visited the Yambali job site and met with the local community.

He also thanked PJV for undertaking the remedial work.

Many of the Highlands Highway works are a result of a high level survey that covered the Highlands Highway from Lae in Morobe to Porgera and from that a priority rating against risk of failure was applied.

The high risk locations have been included in PJV’s current work schedule and will be executed in consultation with DoW.

PJV will be seeking advise from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) about retrospective funding for this work under the Transport Infrastructure classification.

Porgera farmers told to deliver quality

By Sophia Magi

The Ipili Porgera Investment (IPI) Catering Limited has urged farmers in Porgera to maintain good quality of vegetable supplies to the IPI kitchen, under their five-year contract it has with with the Porgera branch of Women in Business (WiB).

IPI Porgera Project Manager Mark Buckland said this during an agriculture field day in December last year, facilitated by Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Community Development Section (CDS) for farmers from the Special Mine Lease (SML) areas.

Supply and Business Services Senior Manager Rodney Holmes led the PJV team on the field day.

“Promoting sustainability is what Porgera is all about. It’s very good that PJV can bring in training, experience and new food crop types into the valley. These initiatives are all about partnership and will work if everybody does their part;” Rod said.

The field day provided an opportunity for the farmers to hear it straight from Mr Buckland, the quality of food crops acceptable to IPI standards.

He said IPI intended to work closely with the communities to ensure the produce was good quality and quantity was there too.

“The quality and quantity grown in Porgera is very good and we have no problems with that. Rotate your crops to maintain the market. Watch for grubs on the broccoli and do not supply sweet potato that is quite young. “Tomato, lettuce, cucumber are staples for western food and choko leaves for the national staff of PJV. The market is there, you just need to go into the field and plant your crops”; he said.

Farmer representative from Panandaka Steven Sandalu thanked IPI and also WiB for securing a market for small scale farmers to benefit from.

He was also thankful to PJV for the seedlings and training.

Porgera WiB branch president Elizabeth Laruma said there had been the obvious challenges such as farmers refusing to sell their crops because of the pricing method used by IPI, which was kilo based, but she told the farmers, these were challenges they would have to deal with and learn to overcome.

The CDS will continue to support training for Porgera farmers in efforts to continue promoting its food security program.

CDS Manager-Alternate Jacqueline Nen said 2016 had been a successful year for the food security program. Despite a lot of challenges, food production figures exceeded those for 2015.

At total of 127 farmers were trained, re-introduction of staples through 15 pathogen-tested sweet potato planting materials, increased duck breeding centres to six, an Agrikids training program at Aambi Elementary school, successful partnerships and recruitment of additional village agriculture extension officers, were some of the achievements.

“Food security is a unique program as it involves everybody. The field day is for you to display your achievements. We have provided relevant training throughout the year but we also notice that not everybody goes back to utilise that training. Those who have, the results are displayed here today;” she said.

Jaqueline also said for 2017, food security initiatives will also look at the possibilities of strawberry and honey bee farming.

Senior Manager Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Timothy Andambo said PJV believed in the work that farmers do because agriculture is a sustainable industry.

He also thanked PJV for executing the five-year contract with the local community.

Mr Buckland (yellow shirt) holds bunches of spring onions as he explains the IPI kitchen requirements. Looking on: Jacqueline (left to right), Mrs Laruma (civilian clothing), Timothy, and agriculture extension officer Rose Benami. Picture by Steven Kallai.
SAFETY

“EFFECTS OF BETEL NUT ON THE MOUTH”

Betel nut has deleterious effects on the mouth and throat. Its effects on dental cavities and periodontal diseases, two major oral diseases, are well-documented.

In chronic chewers, a condition called betel chewers mucosa is often found where the quid is placed.

Short – term effects
- Mild euphoria and feelings of wellbeing
- Feeling alert
- Fast heart rate and palpitations
- High blood pressure
- Red face and feeling warm
- Sweating

Long-term effects
- Discolorations of teeth and gums, sometimes turning them reddish brown
- Mouth ulcers and gum disease
- Oral cancers or sub mucous fibrosis (a pre-cancer condition)
- Stomach ulcer
- Heart disease
- Needing to use more to get the same effect
- Dependence on betel nut
- Financial, work and social problems

Using betel nut with other drugs
The effects of taking betel nut with other drugs – including over-the-counter or prescribed medications – can be unpredictable and dangerous, and could cause:

- Betel nut + tobacco: greatly increases the risk of developing oral cancers

Life Saving Behavior #7
I will never misuse legitimate drugs (prescribed) or be under the influence or in possession of illicit drugs including betel nut (Buai) or alcohol on any Barrick PNG premises.

DO NOT WASTE FOOD
PLEASE ONLY TAKE WHAT YOU NEED.

EVERY PERSON GOING HOME
SAFE AND HEALTHY EVERYDAY

Mr Kopi (standing), John (seated right) and some PDA and landowner representatives during the hearing.

By Judith Mameri

Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) conducted a Mining Warden Hearing in Porgera in response to an application for a Lease for Mining Purpose (LMPA 102) lodged by the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV).

MRA Mine Warden Wapa Kopi conducted the hearing on 21 March this year at the Porgera Development Authority Office at Porgera Station.

LMPA 102 is an application seeking Grant of tenure at Aipulungu to support a small scale Weir Project required to supplement current water supply to the operation from Waile Creek Dam. The project is expected to assist the Porgera gold mine operation to manage more sustainably during periods of dry weather.

Corporate Social Responsibility Manager John Liston indicated during his overview presentation, on behalf of the company, that although the project is small in scale it will be critical to support the ongoing economic viability and operational sustainability of the PJV operation.

He added that the project was simple in design and construction, and would involve the placement of a gravity feed gabion basket, construction of an access road and placement of a pipe to connect the weir to the existing Waile Creek Dam water pipeline. The project has been designed to sit within a portion of the area of the proposed LMPA 102 tenement, which was identified as being approximately 5.48 hectares (ha) in size.

Meanwhile, Mr Kopi told the gathering that MRA was a government agency that regulated mining activities in the country, and the office also authorises different types of licences dependent on the type and size of mining activities.

He added the hearing was held on behalf of the national government after PJV had expressed its interest through an application for a lease for a mining purpose.

“The law stipulates that before the government can give a licence we must first get feedback from the landowners...so the reason for this hearing is so that I can obtain your views on an application that PJV has submitted”, Mr Kopi said as he further explained the process involved in the issue of licences.

At the hearing were the affected landowner representatives for the Aipulungu and proposed LMPA areas.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the mine warden is required to furnish a report which will contain the landowners’ views on PJV’s application. The report accompanied by a Technical Assessment Report on PJV will be given to the Mining Advisory Council (MAC). The MAC deliberates and provides recommendations to the Minister for Mining who has the final authority over issue of licences.

Some locals from the impacted Aipulungu area listen attentively during the hearing. Pictures by Elise Anga.

Stains due to betel nut chewing.

Photo courtesy of Journal of Cancer Research and Therapeutics
Kevin bids farewell to PJV after 26 years

By Sophia Magi

The Community Relations and Engagement (CR&E) team recently said ‘goodbye’ to one of its longest serving members based in Tari, Hela province.

On 1 March this year, Kevin Solomon received a deserving send-off by the department he had served in Tari for the last 26 years.

Kevin ended his career with PJV to contest the 2017 National Election. He was the CR&E senior advisor at the time of his departure.

Senior Manager Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Timothy Andambo, CR&E Manager-Alternate McKinnal together with Senior Advisor Employee Relations (ER) Samuel Lau joined the farewell ceremony in Tari.

“You have been the face of PJV in Tari, Hides and along the Tower line communities. Your contributions have been felt in the communities. To dedicate so many years to one organisation to serve its business objectives is quite an achievement”, Meck said.

Timothy described Kevin as a pillar of the Porgera Joint Venture (PVJ) Tari operation, through his work had assisted Timothy greatly.

Timothy said Tari is a very sensitive area of operation for PJV and the efforts of people like Kevin was highly valuable.

“With Kevin’s announcement to leave PJV, I feel like a part of me is missing and I feel the gap already. I know your closing one chapter of your life, and if you win, a new chapter of leadership does it worth where you will be, a politician or a leader in the community, don’t forget the bridge you have built, relationships created…never forget where you came from, do not forget PJV.

‘Your departure is sad but also an opportunity for us…we hope the community will see your potential leadership skills and we wish you all the best,” Timothy said.

Kevin equally acknowledged PJV’s contributions toward building his character into the person he was today and building his hopes of taking his leadership back into his own community to serve his people.

Kevin began his career with PJV in 1990 when PJV poured its first gold bar to kick start the operation of Porgera gold mine in Enga province.

He was involved in the construction of the tower line facilities from Hides to Porgera and had spent the next 26 years establishing, protecting and promoting the footprint of PJV in Tari.

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He was involved in the construction of the tower line facilities from Hides to Porgera and had spent the next 26 years establishing, protecting and promoting the footprint of PJV in Tari.

“I’ve decided to leave because I think it is time I moved on beyond the boundaries of PJV and back to my community. PJV will always be home. I will call in and offer assistance if it will be needed…26 years with PJV is a long time…this relationship is forever,” he said.

Community Development Superintendent Rodney Ingersoll, who was based in Tari in his last role, said Kevin had made a huge contribution to the Tari team, was instrumental in setting up the Tari office, and provided advice and direction.

CR&E Tari Superintendent Abraham Isom said Kevin was a vocal member of the team who had much influence within the team and external stakeholders as well.

“His best trait has been his engagement with key stakeholders within Hela and his persistent efforts to manage and support the once education support to Hela students in tertiary institutions. “He leaves with all the skill, knowledge and experience but his legacy is something we will hold on to and learn from and improve ourselves,” Abraham added.

Wayne leaves Porgera for Dominican Republic

It was Sunday 6 November 2011 when Wayne Furler took his first flight to the Porgera gold mine in Enga, Papua New Guinea.

Then exactly five years, three months and six days later he left Porgera with mixed emotions.

Executive Managing Director Richmond Fenn said, Wayne had accepted a role at Barrick Gold Corporation’s Pueblo Viejo (PV) operation in the Dominican Republic.

“I take this opportunity to thank Wayne for all of his contributions to Porgera Joint Venture (PVJ) over the past five years.

“Wayne has been instrumental and the driving force for many significant efficiency initiatives including the Oracle implementation, the implementation of competency scorecards and ETAMS”, Mr Fenn said.

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 — which owns 95 percent participating interest in the Porgera Joint Venture (PVJ). The remaining 5% in PJV is owned by Mineral Resource Engineering (MRE) Limited — a consortium consisting of the Enga Provincial Government and the Porgera landowners.

Wayne left for the Caribbean to take up the role of Director of Organisational Effectiveness and also the Global Advisor for Employee Training Assessment Management System (ETAMS) based at the PV mine.

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

Supply and Business Services Senior Manager Rodney Holmes, who has worked closely with Wayne at many operations globally, acknowledged him for the many changes that had taken place at the Porgera operation, in the last couple of years.

He added there were some things that needed to be done for a stronger Porgera operation.

Investing in People and Systems – Employee Development (IPS-ED) Manager Peter White thanked Wayne for helping the local Porgera people.

“No one could deny you had a heart for the local people and you ensured that programs like industrial training, sponsorships and the job ready program were all working for the maximum benefit to go to the local people in Porgera”, he said.

Wayne, all dressed up for his flight out in his signature island shirt, talked about the many changes that had taken place at Porgera during his tenure.

He was particularly appreciative of the PVJ workforce that had worked tirelessly to ensure the changes took place for a better Porgera.

“You guys are the ones that believed in the process and took them on-board”, he said.

Wayne also said there was good leadership in Mr Fenn and the management team at Porgera, and so he was confident the changes would be carried forward by the team.
By Sophia Magi

The first 20 intakes for the 2017 Job Ready Program (JRP) graduated on 24 February at the completion of the five-week basic skills training.

The group brings to a total of 120 trainees that have successfully passed through Barrick (Niugini) Limited ("BNL")-initiated program since last year.

Of these, 72 have secured permanent employment with the Porgera mine operation, while the rest are either on temporary roles or undergoing some form of further training respective to the job placement requirements.

BNL Senior Manager for Human Resource and Employee Development David Lilley while presenting the certificates, said the first year of the program had proven to be a success with positive feedback from departments that had engaged JRP trainees.

He told the graduating trainees, the real opportunity started now and it was up to each one to become successful using this opportunity.

"We want this program to continue for a long time and have many more local people employed by PJV through this program, but it depends on you. When you get to your job, you have to become a safe, productive and highly valued employee," David said.

Representing the group, Jackson Paraia acknowledged the support and involvement of all PJV sections and departments that had been supporting and facilitating the program.

He said going through the training program was challenging but that the trainees had learnt a lot and were now ready for the workplace.

"For the trainees, this is a stepping stone for us to the opportunities that exist and have been made possible by PJV. It is a privilege for us Porgerans to participate in JRP. "We are confident that we can do better to support the operation," he said.

On behalf of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department, Economic Programs Superintendent Daniel Sosialchial challenged the young trainees to use their experience with PJV to be agents of change for their families and communities.

Throughout 2016, BNL took on board 100 genuine locals from Porgera and Tari in Hela province through five batches who had successfully met the selection criteria and completed four weeks of basic skills training.

Edward Bele from Paiam is undergoing training to become a heavy equipment fitter (HEF) with the AMI 789 Truckshop.

Edward was in the second batch that came onboard in April last year.

"I’ve struggled with studies financially and this opportunity is a dream come true. I can see myself being a qualified HEF at the end of my program," Edward said.

BNL plans to have another 100 trainees participate in the program this year.

The program was initiated as a recruitment strategy for genuine and potential young adults from areas that PJV operates. To ‘prepare’ them for technical and administrative roles within the mine’s operation.
Port Moresby staff support women’s day

By Sheila Lasibori

Staff at the Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) Port Moresby office recently participated in an event marking International Women’s Day (IWD).

The breakfast on 8 March this year at the Gateway Hotel was hosted by the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Port Moresby.

The International Women’s Day marked each year on 8 March globally, celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The Day marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The Day

The other delegates who spoke on the theme were: chief executive of National Development Bank Investments Ltd Desmond Yanin en, chair of coalition for change Auvita Rapila.

He also said part of the reason rugby league remained dormant was because of ongoing tribal fights and lawlessness in the district which have since improved.

Mr Takon said now that Porgera rugby league has affiliated, teams would have to register. Players will have to pay a K50 fee for insurance cover as rugby is a contact sport.

“Although our facilities are not up to standard, there is a lot of interest in rugby league here in Porgera. We have a lot of talented players who can excel in the sport and so we have paid our fee for recognition from the national body that rugby is alive in Porgera,” Mr Wape said.

Port Moresby staff support women’s day

By Sheila Lasibori

Staff at the Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) Port Moresby office recently participated in an event marking International Women’s Day (IWD).

The breakfast on 8 March this year at the Gateway Hotel was hosted by the Business and Professional Women’s Club of Port Moresby.

The International Women’s Day marked each year on 8 March globally, celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The Day marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. The Day

The other delegates who spoke on the theme were: chief executive of National Development Bank Investments Ltd Desmond Yaninen, chair of coalition for change Auvita Rapila.

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Porgera rugby affiliates to national league

By Sophia Magi

Porgera rugby league has affiliated to the PNG Rugby Football League (PNGRL) for the 2017 season after almost five years of being dormant.

Porgera League Manager Koman Wape, with a group of keen rugby league supporters presented an affiliation fee receipt of K500 to PNG Rugby League Development Officer for Enga and Hela, Jack Takon on 23 February at the Paiam Sports Oval.

Mr Wape said the decision to revive the code of rugby league was to engage the youth of the valley who he said were involved in unlawful activities since the non-existence of rugby league games.

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He also said part of the reason rugby league remained dormant was because of ongoing tribal fights and lawlessness in the district which have since improved.

Mr Takon said now that Porgera rugby league has affiliated, teams would have to register with the local league body to participate and start competition.

“There are still requirements to meet. Players will have to pay a K50 fee for insurance cover as rugby is a contact sport.

“The pathway for rugby in the country is good with a new administration in PNGRL and good programs to support the development of young rugby league players, and Porgera can benefit from this,” Mr Takon said.

He said Paiam High School was already competing in the school boys competition and they also anticipate to introduce women’s rugby in Porgera next year.

Mr Takon said they hoped to receive support from the local business houses and the community to strengthen the administration of the rugby league program. He added that the sport had received positive support in the past from businesses like the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) and Ipili Porgera Investments (IPI) Group of Company.

The competition will start in March with four teams competing in both A and B grade games. There will be round-robin matches played, after which a 25-men squad will be selected in the team to compete in the Highlands Zone Championships in August this year.

Porgera Positive is a bi-monthly e-newsletter produced by the Barrick (Niugini) Limited (“BNL”) Media and Communications Section of the Strategy and Organisational Effectiveness (SOE) Department. It is disseminated to the BNL employees and contractors, relevant recipients within Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group Company Limited, and external stakeholder partners.