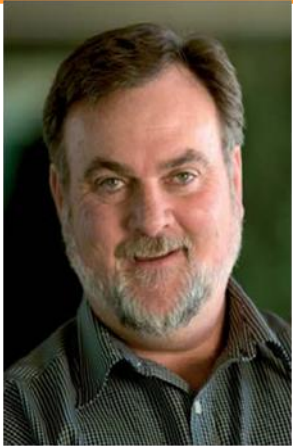




mine managers message



Bill Knight—Manager of Mines

I hope this message finds you rested and refreshed after the Christmas period, and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous 2011.

You may be aware that Alcoa has been negotiating a new EBA with the Australian Workers Union (AWU). Negotiations began back in April 2010 and I am pleased to report that an agreement has now been reached, it was an unsettling period for all concerned and we are happy to be getting the focus back to business as usual.

I'd like to draw your attention to the article in this edition which details the new Vermeer terrain leveler. We are very excited about the current trials and are hopeful that this equipment type may be a way forward for Alcoa mining and will lead to a less intrusive process for our closest neighbours.

Thank you to everyone for their participation in our recent Stakeholder Perception Survey, the key to carrying

out a successful survey is for everyone to send in their feedback, even if you are happy with your relationship with Alcoa—we need to balance the good with the not so good.

The results are in and we make no secret of the fact that many people who took part are unhappy with the level of interaction they have with Alcoa staff and would like to see us more...we will endeavor to improve on these results, and our Community team will be ever present in your area. I speak on behalf of the team at Alcoa Mining when I say... if you have a question then please contact one of our Neighbour Relations consultants, Beth Butler or Fran Luke, their contacts are on the back page of this publication, and if you have a sponsorship or donation enquiry speak to Berni Hiles our Communication Officer on 0448 844 159. They are all there to help.

With warm regards, Bill Knight, Mine Manager

the alcoa foundation

Alcoa Foundation works alongside Alcoa and its neighbouring communities to partner on issues and projects that address local challenges and contribute to the sustainability of each community where our business has a presence.

In 2009, our combined contributions totaled over US\$35 million. Alcoa Foundation provided more than US\$16 million in grants in 27 countries where Alcoa operates, with Alcoa and Alcoa-related foundations contributing another US\$19 million to support projects and partnerships with non-government organisations around the world. Alcoa employees continue to play an active role in strengthening social fabric of their communities, contributing over 650,000 volunteer hours in 2009.

At Alcoa Mining this equated to \$34,500 for Bravo Grants and a further \$21,000 to community organisations in the form of ACTION events, which is over and above the partnership agreements that Alcoa Mining enter into with our local community groups.

Some of the Alcoa Foundation and National Partnerships supported under their relevant **areas of excellence** in 2011 will include -

Sustainable Environment

- Greening Australia—projects including: Landscape Transformations, Academic research, Tree Planting Programme, and Make An Impact.
- SALP (the Swan Alcoa Landcare Project)

Community Health & Safety

- Kids Foundation—Safety Club Programme
- Blueearth Foundation—Peel Schools Programme.

Community Capacity & Resilience

- Sculpture by the Sea—Schools Programme and annual exhibition
- Fairbridge Farm—Indigenous Life Outcomes Initiative.
- Timehelp—Intergenerational volunteer programme.

Tomorrows Workforce & Leaders

- Polly Farmer Foundation—Follow the Dream Peel
- Celebrate WA—Gold Swan Award
- Curtin University—Bev Corless Scholarship
- Our Community
- Clontarf Foundation—Kwinana Gilmore Academy

All of the partnerships mentioned here for 2011 are included in more detail on the Alcoa website, please visit www.alcoa.com.au and follow the links through 'Community'



Greening Australia



Why not book a seat on our weekly minesite tours (08) 9530 2400

australia's mine manager of the year



Alcoa of Australia's Bill Knight has taken out top honors at the 7th Annual Australian Mining Prospect Awards in Sydney. The Australian Mining Prospect Awards aim to encourage, recognise and reward excellence in the Australian mining industry.

Mr Knight won 'Mine Manager of the Year' which awards a mine manager or general manager who has led a team to improve productivity, safety, environmental standards and/or reached notable milestones.

Working through most areas of Alcoa's Western Australian Operations, since joining the company as an Environ-

mental Scientist in 1980, Mr Knight was promoted to the position of WA Manager of Mines in 2005.

Mr Knight was recognised as 'Mine Manager of the Year' for his unwavering commitment to provide a safe workplace for all, creating an environment where people feel empowered and valued, being a visible leader, as well as his volunteering efforts in the local community.

"I am very proud that we have created a culture within the Alcoa Mining Group in which people genuinely care about each other, and they want to recognise the little extra things that we all do, every day, to help each other - apparently it was my turn to be recognised," Mr Knight said.

"The Alcoa Mining Group has always felt like a family to me and, as a leader, it is critical that I help foster, build and strengthen this culture.

"When we work this way we all win, and we can continue to build a great place to work for the hundreds of people who will

work for Alcoa in the decades ahead.

"Alcoa really is a great company to be a part of and I'm very proud of our achievements in Mining, particularly around our excellent environmental record.

"We are a recognised world leader in mine site rehabilitation and were the first mining company in the world to achieve 100 per cent plant species richness in our rehabilitated mine site areas," he said.

"I feel very fortunate to work in a strong values based organisation with a wonderful team of people - it's the people who are our success at Alcoa, so this award is as much theirs as it is mine."

Bill Knight was delighted to receive a letter of congratulations from the Dwellingup Community Village Committee Members



what's new at alcoa mining?



This is the Vermeer Terrain Leveler Surface Excavating Attachment that is currently being trialed at Alcoa's Huntly Mine. Vermeer markets this equipment as the 'neighborhood friendly alternative to blasting'.

One Vermeer Terrain Leveler Attachment can perform overburden removal and THEN surface mine in very specific layers, although the machine can perform many tasks and eliminates the need to drill and blast.

Apparently blasting and rippers are unnecessary, and the mate-



rial is ready for transport without any additional sizing steps.

These units are suitable for mining, site preparation, road construction / reconstruction, over-burden removal, and soil remediation projects.

The Terrain Leveler attachment is designed to eliminate the need for blasting, in addition to rippers and vertical drills. One Terrain Leveler Attachment can single-handedly perform site preparation and excavation of mine material.

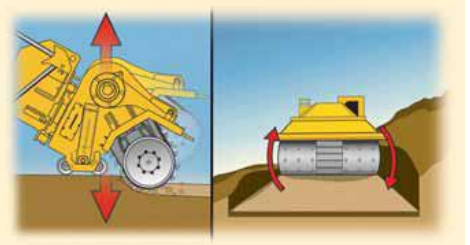
Proprietary "top-down" cutting technology allows the cutter teeth to achieve greater rock penetration. When the machine travels forward, the teeth on top of the drum are positioned over the top of the rock surface. As contact is made, the teeth instantly cut the rock. Tractive effort is no longer required to create tooth penetration.

Alcoa Mining is exploring this option carefully as the equipment takes longer to perform the ground preparation tasks and operational noise is a factor to be taken into consideration. Trials of this machinery are ongoing at Huntly Mine



A patented industry-exclusive tilting cutter drum with two-direction leveling on the T1255

this equipment aids production by keeping the drum level — allowing the leveler to take on jobs that were not possible before — regardless of ground conditions.



backfill, drilling and blasting

In our Spring edition of the Mining News, we discussed the SOBR Process or 'Secondary Overburden Removal'. Once this process is complete it is time to progress to the Backfill and Drilling stages.

BACKFILLING...To complete this process Bauxite is spread over the uneven caprock layer after SOBR operations to allow the drill and blast team to easily travel over the caprock layer.

Bauxite is used so that all of the remaining rock material can be mined after blasting.



Bauxite ore is spread over uneven caprock



After Secondary Overburden Removal this hard, undulating surface caprock layer is exposed and ready to be broken up



DRILLING & BLASTING...

After the topsoil, overburden and secondary overburden are removed the caprock is exposed. The caprock or 'duricrust' as it is called by geologists, is a solid concrete-like layer averaging about 1m thick above the friable bauxite layer in the soil profile. Both the caprock and friable are 'bauxite' layers and will be mined and processed.

Caprock is formed by thousands of years of weathering processes that dissolve and deposit certain minerals in the soil profile. To break the caprock, holes are drilled into it. Explosive slurry is then pumped into the holes and this is wired up with detonators. When weather conditions indicate that noise levels will have minimum impact on neighbours, the caprock is blasted. In some instances, when there is likely to be an adverse im-

act on neighbours, or where the caprock layer is very thin, a large remote controlled bulldozer can be used to rip the caprock.

The geological nature of the Darling Range bauxite differs greatly from most other mining and quarrying operations in Australia. The Darling Range soil profile has a thin but solid caprock layer that must be broken to access the bauxite ore below.

This difference means that the explosives need to be close to the surface and special techniques are used to ensure maximum containment of the blast energy.

There are two impacts that near neighbours may experience from blasting:

- Noise
- Sensation of vibration

Residents of communities around Al-

coa's mining operations are sometimes concerned about the effects of blasting on the structural integrity of buildings on their properties.

Blasting is unlikely to cause any structural damage to buildings.

Ground vibration is actually only felt at low measurement, very close to the blast. The vibration sensation at distances away from the blast is air overpressure. If you would like more information please contact one of our team for a 'blasting impact' fact sheet.



The caprock layer is blasted to access the bauxite beneath it





alcoa in the community

Santa's visit to Dwellingup

The Dwellingup R & SL (Returned and Services League) decked their hall and hosted their annual seniors Christmas luncheon in December 2010.

Ladies from Alcoa's Mine arrived to trade their usual working duties for an afternoon as waitresses for the merry group.

The party goers were treated to quizzes, nibbles and a turkey/lamb dinner, followed by traditional Christmas pudding and a lovely selection of gifts donated by many local businesses.

Father Christmas, who bore a striking resemblance to the local police officer, arrived in his 'sleigh' with Mrs. Christmas and trusty chief elf, just in time to



hand the presents out to all the guests and cut the Christmas cake.

Children from the Dwellingup Primary School arrived to sing a number of traditional and modern Christmas songs.

Irene Allen, the event coordinator for the R & SL, thanked all of the people who made the day such a success, particularly the many local businesses that had donated money and goods. She also thanked the amazing kitchen staff who, once a year come together to cook a feast fit for a king.

Irene laughed "we may have to find a bigger venue for next year".

lets get the kids baking...

It's fruit season in Dwellingup, so during school holidays why not get the kids to make you some of these delicious **Cherry Muffins...**

What you will need...

- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh cherries
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup melted butter



Preparation:

Grease and flour 12 muffin cups or line with paper liners. Heat your oven to 375°. In a medium bowl, combine the salt, baking powder, flour, sugar, and cinnamon; add cherries and stir gently to blend. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg, flavoring, milk and melted butter until well blended. Stir egg and milk mixture into the dry mixture. Fill muffin cups about 2/3 full. Bake cherry muffins for 20 to 25 minutes.



out and about



Picture content:

1. Willowdale's Mick King presents Brian O'Donnell with a \$1000 BRAVO cheque for the Waroona Cricket Club
2. Children from the North Dandalup Primary School with their new raised garden beds purchase with an Alcoa ACTION grant
3. Bob Tizard collects some dieback resistant jarrah seedlings for his local community group
4. Mining employees worked with the Dwellingup Community Village at the Old Nursing Post ACTION Event.
5. Waroona Amateur Basketball Association receive their \$3250 BRAVO Cheque
6. The Dwellingup 100 Mountain Bike Event underway
7. Huntly Mobile Maintenance Crew B at the Dwellingup Primary School ACTION / Month of Service Event
8. Alcoa's Larry Hantler with Jeff Anderton from the Stakehill Landcare Group and the recently donated tractor
9. Mining employees selling goods for the National Breast Cancer Foundation as part of Alcoa's month of service.
10. Willowdale employees take part in a Month of Service volunteering event at St. Joseph's Primary School, Waroona
11. The girls from Willowdale Crew 1 working hard at the Waroona Cricket Club ACTION Event

To find out more about alcoa's operations:
 Come on a tour: (08) 9530 2400
 Contact our Neighbour Relations Staff: Huntly Mine—
 Fran Luke (08) 9530 2527 : Willowdale Mine—Beth Butler (08) 9733 8942
 Visit our website: www.alcoa.com.au/bauxitemining

If our operations are having a negative impact on you, please contact security:

Huntly Mine (08) 9530 2800
Willowdale Mine (08) 9733 8811

24 hours a day, 7 days a week