



**MOUNT ISA
MINES**

MEDIA RELEASE

MOUNT ISA: A JOURNEY FROM 1924 TO 2009

Brisbane, Thursday 8 October 2009

An exhibit celebrating 85 years of commerce and community in north-west Queensland was launched in Brisbane last night by State Member for Mount Isa, Betty Kiernan.

The exhibit, which will be on display at the Riverside Centre until Friday 16 October, features the history of the region including the discovery of ore and the development and growth of Mount Isa Mines.

State Member for Mount Isa, the Honourable Betty Kiernan MP, said the world class copper, lead, silver, zinc, gold and phosphate mines in the region were the economic backbone of the northern region known as the North West Mineral Province, and Mount Isa was the major regional centre of the thriving mining community which brought significant wealth and development to the region.

"We have just witnessed one of the quickest and greatest world economic crises since the great depression and how we have handled it is a testament to our Governments both Federal and State, our industry and our people," Ms Kiernan said.

"As history has proven over the last 85 years we have dealt with the challenges of the past and we will meet the new challenges of the future which I am certain will be for many more years to come," she said.

Chief Operating Officer for Xstrata Copper in North Queensland, Mr Steve de Kruijff, said the exhibit celebrated a community, a mine, and a rich history – all of which were important not only to those lucky enough to live in the Isa, but to the economic development of our great State.

"The establishment of the mine harnessed the region's mining potential, and although the community weathered 30 years of struggle for its very survival, it grew to become the cornerstone of Queensland's economy, the backbone of the State's most profitable railway, and in the 1950s, Australia's largest single creator of export income," Mr de Kruijff said.



"Today, Xstrata Mount Isa Mines is the largest copper and zinc mining and processing operation in Australia," he said.

"We employ more than 4,000 people in Mount Isa, and another 1,000 in our operations at Ernest Henry near Cloncurry, in Townsville and in Bowen.

"It's been a great 85 years, and the future is looking exciting too."

Mayor of Mount Isa, John Molony, said that from a humble population of approximately 300 people in 1924, Mount Isa was now home to more than 23,500 people, and the administrative, commercial and industrial centre of north-west Queensland.

"There's a lot more to Mount Isa than people expect, and we look forward to our friends in Brisbane viewing the exhibition while it's in the city, as well as welcoming them into our great community," Mr Molony said.

Speakers at the event included Hon Betty Kiernan MP, State Member for Mount Isa, His Worship John Molony, Mayor of Mount Isa, Chief Operating Officer of Xstrata Copper in North Queensland, Steve de Kruijff, and Chief Operating Officer of Xstrata Zinc Australia, Brian Hearne.

Mount Isa born performer and composer, William Barton, also moved guests at the event with his stories of the region and his family's history in Mount Isa through music.

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Notes to editors

In 2009 Mount Isa celebrates 85 years of commerce and community.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Queensland's independence, we reflect on the significant contribution Mount Isa has made to the growth and economic prosperity of this great State.

With the establishment of Mount Isa Mines in January 1924, Mount Isa transformed for a small miner's camp to a community. It was the year commerce began and the year the community made important investments in community infrastructure including accommodation, a general store, a school and a hospital.

For more information about the history of commerce and community in Mount Isa please visit www.celebrateisa.com.au



About the exhibit:

The exhibition features seven themes that illustrate the history of commerce and community in Mount Isa. These themes are:

- 1) The region and its development
- 2) The discovery of ore and the establishment of a mine
- 3) The early years
- 4) Building a community
- 5) Modern mining
- 6) Isa greats
- 7) Regional attractions

Xstrata Plc

Xstrata is a major global diversified mining group, listed on the London and Zurich stock exchanges. Headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, Xstrata maintains a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with recycling facilities and additional exposures to gold, cobalt, lead and silver and a suite of global technologies, many of which are industry leaders. The Group's operations and projects span 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Germany, New Caledonia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, the USA and the UK. Xstrata employs approximately 43,000 people, including contractors.

Xstrata Copper

Xstrata Copper is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, with regional offices in Santiago and Antofagasta, Chile; Lima and Arequipa, Peru; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Toronto, Canada, and is one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc.

Xstrata Copper's mining operations and projects span seven countries and include mines, mineral processing plants and port facilities in North Queensland, Australia; mining and processing operations and port facilities in Chile, Peru and Argentina in South America; and mining and processing plants in Canada. It also has a recycling business (Noranda Recycling) with facilities in Canada, the United States and Asia.

Xstrata Copper is the fourth largest global copper producer, with annual managed production of over one million tonnes.

Xstrata Zinc

Xstrata Zinc is one of the world's largest producers of zinc. Around half of all zinc currently consumed is used for galvanizing steel, which is an environmentally friendly method of protecting steel against corrosion. Zinc also finds application in the manufacture of die-cast alloys, brass and the production of zinc oxides and chemicals.

Xstrata's zinc and lead operations are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the UK. They comprise: the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, Spain; the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria, Spain; the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Mount Isa, George Fisher and Black Star zinc-lead mines and lead smelter in Queensland, Australia; McArthur River zinc-lead mine in the Northern Territory, Australia; the Northfleet lead refinery located in the UK; the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick, Canada, 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal, Canada; 50% of Lennard Shelf zinc lead mine in Western Australia; 75% of Lady Loretta zinc lead deposit in Queensland, Australia; 33.75% of Antamina mine in Peru and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.

