

PRESS RELEASE

Xstrata ensures vital community service can continue

Mount Isa, Friday 16 March 2012

Today Xstrata handed over keys to the Mount Isa City Council for Rotary House which will become the new temporary home for Mount Isa's city Library.

To accommodate the library, extensive renovations to Rotary House were carried out, including; structural repairs to the building exterior, electrical repairs and upgrades, installation of internal partitioning, refit of the bathrooms, and internal and external painting.

Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Copper North Queensland emphasised the importance of ensuring the Library stays open for the Mount Isa Community.

"A library is a vital community resource that helps shape our future generations," said Steve.

"With Mount Isa's library closed due to extensive storm damage, we are so pleased to be able to offer the Council a temporary location, free of charge, so that library services can recommence,"

"Libraries give people the opportunity to experience new ideas, explore great minds and experience great art, while at the same time providing a sense of place to gather."

Steve praised his hard working team for delivering the renovations on a tight timeframe.

"Our Building Services team have done a fantastic job and have undertaken extensive renovations which have brought Rotary House up to speed with the library's requirements.

"The project has also involved our Indigenous Trainees who played a vital role in clearing the property, installing an irrigation system, landscaping the lawn and repatching the driveways,

"We have invested over \$100,000 into the Rotary House improvements to ensure we can accommodate a temporary library and provide a safe and pleasant modern facility for our community to enjoy while the city library is being repaired." he said.

Councillor John Molony, Mayor of Mount Isa expressed his gratitude for our support.

"Mount Isa City Council is ever so appreciative of the support Xstrata has given us in re-housing the library in a most appropriate location," said John.

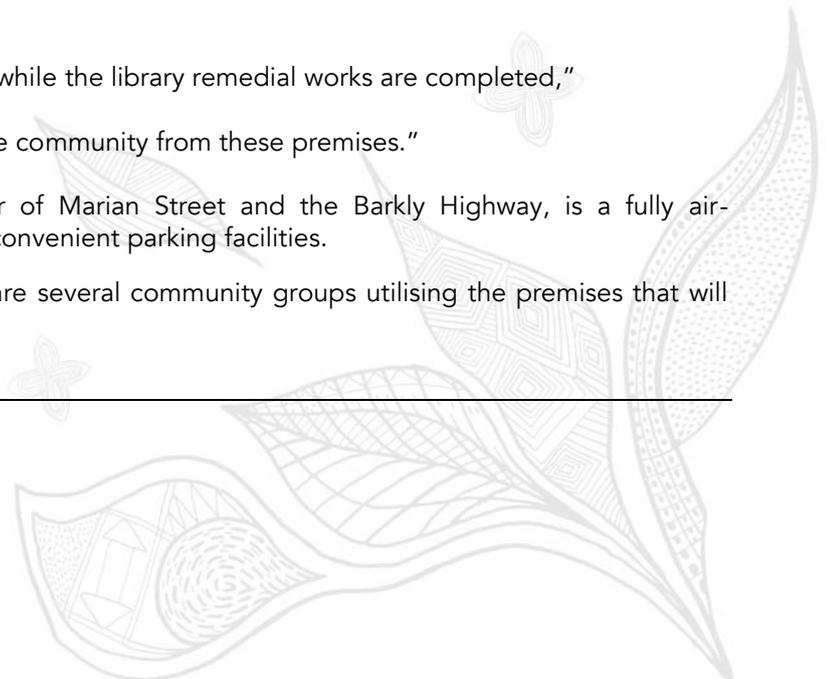
"Rotary House will be an asset for the community while the library remedial works are completed,"

"Our library staff are looking forward to serving the community from these premises."

Rotary House is centrally located on the corner of Marian Street and the Barkly Highway, is a fully air-conditioned complex with wheelchair access and convenient parking facilities.

In addition to housing a temporary library there are several community groups utilising the premises that will also benefit from the renovations.

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Neither the content of the company's website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the company's website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement

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Notes to editors

About Xstrata plc

We are a major producer of a range of vital commodities used in everything from constructing buildings and delivering electricity, to developing jet engines and mobile phones. We are one of the top five global producers of copper, thermal and metallurgical coal, ferrochrome, zinc and nickel and we also produce silver, lead, platinum, gold, cobalt and vanadium.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Switzerland, we operate in over 20 countries and employ over 70,000 people at more than 100 operations and projects around the world. We work in a responsible and sustainable way, with an entrepreneurial spirit and dynamic approach. For more information, visit www.xstrata.com

About Xstrata Copper

We are the fourth largest global copper producer and one of the world's largest producers of smelter, refined and recycled copper, including from third party materials.

The copper we produce is essential to our modern society, being used extensively in electronic, consumer and building products, and with its use in green-technologies, anti-microbial applications and ability to be recycled, it is playing a vital role in our sustainable future.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, we have operations and projects in eight countries and employ over 20,000 people. We play an essential role in the communities in which we live and work, by providing jobs, training, infrastructure, income for suppliers and support for social development. For more information, visit www.xstratacopper.com

About Xstrata Zinc

Headquartered in Madrid, Spain, Xstrata Zinc is one of the world's largest producers of zinc and one of the commodity business units within the major global diversified mining group Xstrata plc. Xstrata's zinc and lead operations and exploration projects are located in Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Xstrata Zinc's operations in Spain comprise the San Juan de Nieva zinc smelter and the Arnao zinc semis plant in Asturias, and the Hinojedo roasting plant in Cantabria.

In Australia, operations comprise: the Mount Isa, George Fisher underground, Handlebar Hill open cut and Black Star open cut zinc-lead mines, zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and Bowen Coke Works in north Queensland; the McArthur River open pit zinc-lead mine, processing and loading facility in the Northern Territory; and the Lady Loretta mine in north-west Queensland.

In Canada, operations and exploration projects include the Brunswick zinc-lead mine and lead smelter in New Brunswick; 25% of the CEZ zinc smelter near Montreal; and the Perseverance zinc deposit in Quebec.

Xstrata Zinc also operates the Nordenham zinc smelter in northern Germany; the Northfleet lead refinery in the United Kingdom; and owns 33.75% of the Antamina mine in Peru.

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.