



# TIWAI POINTER

New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Limited

January to March 2013

## New AOD test provider

At the beginning of February, a number of changes were made to how our Alcohol and Other Drugs programme operates. The changes will not affect the effectiveness, anonymity or randomness of the system, but will provide significant cost savings.

The first change is that the New Zealand Drug Detection Agency (NZDDA) is now our test provider. You may have seen the NZDDA vans parked at the rear of the Medical Centre. Instead of being in the Medical Centre, individuals will now be tested in the NZDDA vans. However, if selected for testing, people should still report to the Medical Centre waiting room in the first instance. Testing will remain completely random and confidential. The test list is generated electronically and automatically using a random number generator.

In addition, only positive test samples are sent for further confirmatory testing. This will result in faster turn around time for receiving results, as well as reducing analysis costs.

Another change is the selection of contractors who arrive on site in vehicles during Monday to Friday dayshifts. The selection

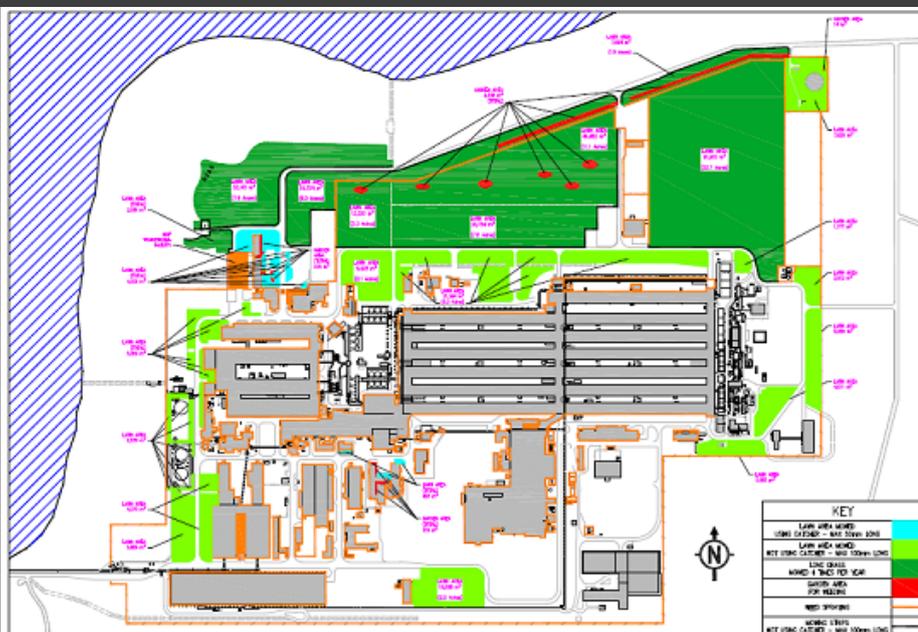


Isabelle & Bill from NZDDA on a recent visit to NZAS

process for this group is now undertaken by drawing coloured balls from a bag at the Security gatehouse entrance. If the ball selected is the appropriate colour, all contractors in that vehicle will be tested before they engage in any work. All other aspects of the AOD programme remain unchanged.

If you have any queries on how the new AOD programme operates, please contact Raewyn Robson, Barry Simmonds or Rob Peterson.

## Lawn care



Did you know there are 85 acres of lawn at NZAS? That's a lot of mowing!

Following a review, there has been a change to how we care for the lawns at the smelter. Instead of mowing all of the lawns around the site, the area north of Reduction (dark green on the map) will now stay in long grass with a mowing strip of 2-3 metres wide at the roadside (wide enough for a vehicle to park safely off the road). The long grass will be mowed up to four times a year. This form of lawn care is currently used at Millbrook Resort near Arrowtown.

The lawns coloured light green on the map will be mowed when they reach 10 cm growth, with some areas to be weed sprayed. The lawns around the old Administration and Operations buildings will be mowed as usual.

This change commenced on 1 February and will create a significant cost saving of \$52k per annum.

If you have any questions, please contact Vivi Hitchcock.

# Accounts Payable back at NZAS

In December, the Accounts Payable function was transferred from RTSS (India) back to the Accounting Services team on site, after having been centralised for the past seven years.

Rose Langford (far right) and Donna Wilson are the two Accounts Payable Officers who have picked up the RTSS workload. Rose is helping out on a short-term basis and was a previous Accounts Payable Clerk the last time the function was managed on site at NZAS.

Rose and Donna are happy to assist with any invoice, webcycle approval or payment queries from employees or vendors, at the new NZAS Accounts Payable service desk (phone 03 218-5998, or email [AP.NZ@pacificaluminium.com.au](mailto:AP.NZ@pacificaluminium.com.au)).



## Southland Explorers Club

The Southland Explorers Club for children aged eight years and above has been revived after a hiatus of a couple of years.

Forty children have enrolled to date. The first excursion was held on 2 March when the group met at the old Tiwai picnic ground for lunch, then a walk along the beach to the Tiwai wharf. The tide was low and the group caught small fish, crabs and two octopuses.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and learned about local sea life and the former Maori occupation of the area.

The club will have a monthly meeting and frequent excursions. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Lloyd Esler on 213-0404.



Six year old Ewan Beadell (Marcus' son) enjoying his visit to the beach near the Tiwai wharf

## Our People

**Name:** Debbie Rankin

**Position:** Training Specialist



**How long have you worked at NZAS?**

Only 18 months – a newbie!

**Who is the person you most admire in the world?**

Nelson Mandela – living proof that stress, hardship and fighting for what you believe in won't kill you and wearing trendy shirts when you are old won't kill you!

**Who would you like to be stranded on a desert island with and why?**

Kevin McCloud – he'd build us something really cool (eg a boat for getaway when we got sick of each other), he's interesting and funny, and not hard to look at either!

**What is your favourite leisure activity?**

Running, biking or walking in Southland or Fiordland's parks, with someone to 'chew the fat'

**What's your biggest achievement in life so far?**

Having my family as friends, and friends who are like family

**What were your career aspirations when you were a child?**

I wanted to be a jockey but passed the weight barrier when I was about eight!

**What do you want to do when you grow up (and when will that be)?**

I want to be healthy and happy 'til I'm really old, then die in my sleep – worn out, not rusted!

# Did you know ...

**Aluminium is the third most abundant element in the earth's crust – what are the first two?**

*Oxygen and silicon respectively*

**How many aluminium cans have been recycled world wide?**

*Since 1972, an estimated 660-plus billion beverage cans have been recycled – placed end to end they could stretch to the moon nearly 300 times*

**Where did the word 'aluminium' originate?**

*The word aluminium comes from the Latin word, alumen. This is what the Romans called alum, a compound containing aluminium and other elements. People of this era used alum to dye clothes and to put in medicines*

**How much aluminium has been produced at NZAS since 1971?**

*10,382,047.2 tonnes (as at end February 2013)*

**Where did our aluminium go in 2012?**

*Japan (55%), Europe (18%), Korea (12%), USA & Canada (6%), New Zealand (6%) and other (3%)*

**How many ships came through Tiwai wharf in 2012?**

*54 ships, with 173 days on berth*

**How much cargo was moved through the Tiwai wharf last year?**

*1,023,187 tonnes of cargo, made up of 628,104 tonnes of alumina, 217,705 tonnes of metal, 122,238 tonnes of petroleum coke, 35,954 tonnes of liquid pitch and 19,186 tonnes of heavy fuel oil*

**Who are our current longest serving employees (male and female)?**

*Colin McKee and Kay Shaw*

**How many people are in the NZAS 25 Year Club?**

*493 members of the club made up of 316 current employees and 177 former employees*

**How many members in the Tiwai Fire Brigade?**

*42 NZAS employees are currently members of the fire brigade*

**How many days have NZAS employees volunteered for the Kakapo Recovery programme?**

*988 days since 2004*

**How many kilometres of power lines from Manapouri power station to NZAS?**

*168 kms*

**How long did it take to construct the power station?**

*The project took eight years to complete*

**How many people lost their lives during construction of the Manapouri power station?**

*Sixteen*

**How many General Managers have worked at NZAS since the plant opened 1971?**

*Fourteen GMs – Jim Merrett, Graham Fairless, Ian Reid, Lindsay Allsopp, Frank Lee, Alex Millar, Brian Midgley, Charlie Paschal, David Brewer, Ian Jacobson, Tom Campbell, Brian Cooper, Paul Hemburrow & Ryan Cavanagh*

**How many medallions have been produced since NZAS commenced operations?**

*Fifteen in total: official opening (1971), one million tonnes (1979), Stage IV official opening (1982), two million tonnes (1985), three million tonnes (1989), 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary (1992), four million tonnes (1993), NZAS upgrade and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1996), 5 million tonnes (1996), 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2001), Rio Tinto CEO Safety Award (2003), supplying the new A380 Airbus with high purity metal (2004), Rio Tinto CEO Safety Award and safest year to date (2006), NZBEF Gold Award (2007), 10 million tonnes and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2011)*

**When was the Tiwai Social Club formed?**

*1971. If you are interested in joining the social club, please contact Raewyn Brett via email [dgbrett@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dgbrett@xtra.co.nz)*

**When did NZAS start to use the services of an industrial chaplain?**

*In 1982 with Robin Williams being the first chaplain. He continued in this role for 26 years until the end of 2008. Terry Cocker is our current industrial chaplain*

**How high is the smelter chimney?**

*The stack is 137 metres high (the second highest chimney in NZ after the New Plymouth power station chimney – however the power station is mothballed making NZAS' chimney the tallest functioning one in the country)*



# Kakapo Recovery Update

**Unfortunately, there will be no kakapo breeding season this year, due to the poor weather conditions experienced in spring. The record cold and wet weather prevented the rimu fruit from forming, which in turn has deterred the kakapo from mating.**

However, on a positive front, a number of NZAS employees have been busy on the islands, either carrying out supplementary feeding of the kakapo, or maintaining vital island infrastructure.

NZAS volunteers, Jenny Galt (Stores) and Jessica Proft (Reduction) spent two weeks on Codfish Island assisting with supplementary feeding, while Andree Wallace (MP) and Jeremy Anderson (Reduction) volunteered on Anchor Island.

Six employees have recently carried out maintenance on Anchor and Codfish Islands, including a significant amount of work on the islands power systems, including the generators, hydro systems and solar panels - Diesel Faulkner (MP), Alan Broomhall (MP), Alistair Wilson (Reduction), Brent McFelin (Reduction), Chris Wild (Power Supply) and Peter Warden (Engineering Workshops).



*In front of the new generator shed on Codfish Island (from left) Alan Broomhall, Diesel Faulkner, Jo Ledington (DOC), Deidre Vercoe Scott (DOC), Alistair Wilson, Peter Warden, Daryl Eason (DOC) & Chris Wild*

Supplementary feeding volunteer, Andree Wallace's thoughts on her trip to Anchor follow:

"I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to go over to Anchor Island. Getting to the DOC office on the morning that we left I was a bit nervous; I didn't really know what to expect apart from what I had been told from other people who had been over and I was also worried because I had heard that some characters back at NZAS had something planned for me in terms of retribution for a few things that had happened over the past few months!

The trip over to the island was amazing. I still can't believe how beautiful the scenery was, both on the way over and on the island itself. Learning about the history of the Kakapo Recovery programme and the methods DOC

uses to increase the species was really interesting. I was surprised to find out that there have been efforts to save the kakapo for many years dating back to Richard Henry taking birds over to Resolution Island in the late 1800s.

On our second to last day we went with the DOC rangers to catch a kakapo called Nora for her annual weigh and health check. It was cool to finally see one of the birds we had been leaving food for each day.

We certainly had our fair share of rain and the value of a warm, dry pair of socks back at the hut cannot be overrated!

I had no trouble with the sandflies, despite some very concerned colleagues who went to huge effort to source some 'special' repellent with a very unique composition. Thank you to these people, rest assured I will return your kindness."



*Andree on Anchor Island in Fiordland*

Nora was one of the first birds to be caught on Stewart Island in 1980 and her capture marked a major turning point in the battle to save the kakapo species. She was the third female found and was the first nesting female to be observed on Stewart Island. Nora hatched three chicks on Stewart Island and fledged Adler and Zephyr in 1981. Zephyr now lives on Codfish Island and has been one of the programme's most productive breeders. Sirocco is Nora's grandson – everyone knows who Sirocco is, especially after he reached world acclaim by getting a little too 'frisky' on top of zoologist Mark Cawardine's head a few years back, on the BBC's 'Last Chance to See' programme!



# Kakapo Recovery Update (cont.)

Supplementary feeding volunteer, Jessica Proft recently completed a two week placement on Codfish Island:

“Codfish Island was an incredible experience! The island is not only home to the kakapo; it is a sanctuary for the conservation for many other animals. A few of the awesome birds I got to see include Kakariki, Snipe, Tomtit, Saddleback, Fernbirds, Fantail, Brown Teal duck, Kakas, Wood pigeons, Tuis and of course a few kakapo. I thought I'd share a few of my favourite moments from the island.



Jessica working with the Yellow Eyed Penguin team

**Mottled petrel** (related to the Muttonbird) - these chicks are adorable and they have so much personality. The chicks fit in the palm of your hand. Parents fly down to the Antarctic in search of food for their young, away for many days, even weeks, and in that time the young petrel chicks go hungry. When the parents returns, the petrel chicks double in weight!

**Sea lions** - while I was on the island, I was lucky enough to experience a sea lion calf's first swim. The night before, we'd heard the pair travelling down the river, their cries getting louder and louder, until they were under the hut windows.

The following day, the mother and calf were making their way down to the beach. They were at the mouth of the river with the mother gently trying to coax the pup across it. Afraid, the pup kept saying no (“baaaa... baaaa” – yes, they sound like sheep!). The mother understood the calf's fear and eventually she lay down in the shallow water as if to say, “look, it's not that deep.” Almost immediately, the calf followed her into the river. They continued their journey – out of the river and down the beach, towards the ocean. Again, the calf was timid and frightened by the water. They paddled along the edge in the shallow waves. The mother was careful to protect her calf from any strong waves; she always took the brunt of them. As they wandered down the beach, the mother would demonstrate how to approach waves. After they had travelled over half the length of the beach, the calf was feeling more comfortable in the water and the pair started to get deeper.”



Sea lion calf's first swim

## CBF4 Rebuild project completed

Congratulations to the CBF4 Rebuild team – they completed the project at the end of February ahead of schedule and well under budget – well done guys!



(Left to right) – back row: Wayne Taylor, Gordon Feaver, Richard Sturges, Richard Cousins, Layne Douglas, Anthony Nimo, Daniel Tarrant, Gordon Campbell, Steve Griffiths, Barry Cooper, Keith Millar & Terry Reeves. Front row: Brady Barrett, Michael Johnson, Aaron Wilmshurst & Jeff Duggan