

Reflecting on 40 years of Working for Namibia

The next ten years: 1996 - 2006

2016

1976



Rössing, the difficult early 90s and Y2K . . .

INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND FALLING URANIUM PRICES

While the dawn of an independent Namibia on 21 March 1990 brought an end to 110 years of colonial rule, it rang in a most challenging era for Rössing Uranium Limited as international prices for uranium oxide (U3O8) began to sliding precipitously to levels below US\$9 a pound.

But worse was still to come. The price for yellow cake continued to slip as environmental concerns in especially Western Europe saw more and more nuclear reactors being mothballed. Namibia, still giddy with delirium over its new-found independence, appeared not to notice when Rössing Uranium Chairman John Kirkpatrick announced in April that year that the Mine would cut back on production from 4,100 short tonnes to 3,250 short tonnes, entailing the retrenchment of 200 people.

By October 1991, the price for the commodity had dropped to US\$7.25, and Rössing was forced to cut back production to 2,500 tons - 50% of its peak output. Worse, the Mine announced that it was to send 750 workers on voluntary early retirement or retrenchment in an effort to keep the Mine financially viable.

Despite the vociferous protests of the Mineworkers' Union of Namibia, their negotiations with Rössing Management saw most of the 750 workers retrenched, with pension payouts, at an eventual total cost of R25 million. These workers were allowed to continue living in Rössing accommodation for another 12 months while receiving all company health benefits.

Hopes that the uranium prices would improve soon proved unrealistic. By early 1992, Rössing Uranium management realised it could no longer afford to maintain Arandis. On 1 April 1992, the company handed over control of Arandis and its infrastructure, valued at R100 million, to the Peri-urban Development Board of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing. The Government became the town's landlord, with the company leasing houses, the clinic and the recreational buildings from it on behalf of several hundred remaining Rössing employees, who continued paying only nominal rents.

Highlights

2003 . . .

May:

The Rössing Intranet is launched to pave the way for quick access to information.

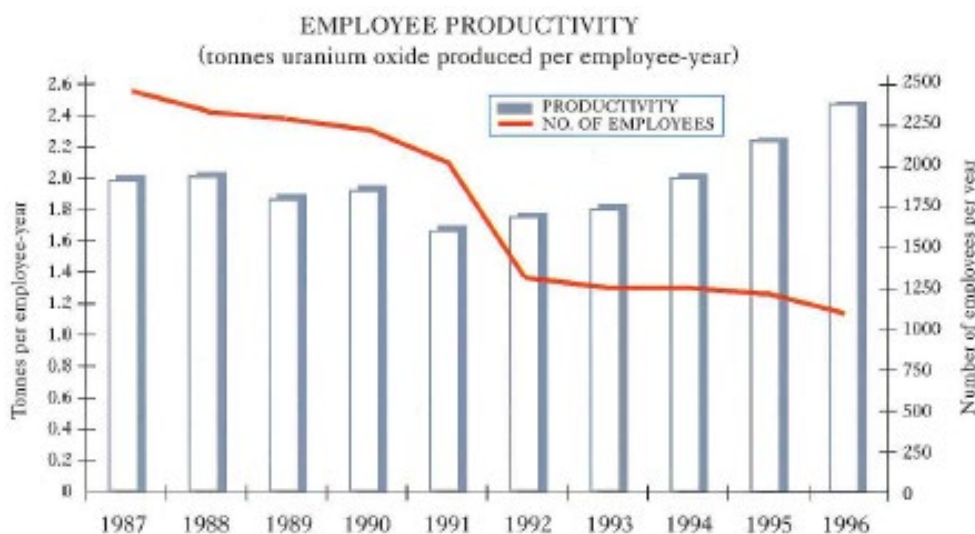
Rössing Uranium Ltd Intranet

Communication • IS&T • Finance • HSE • MMC • A

Home



Welcome To The
Intranet



FRONT PAGE PHOTO: Celebrations in the open pit when Rössing turned 20 years in 1996.

THE MARKET

The upward trend in the spot price which began during 1995 continued into 1996, with the price per lb peaking during the year at \$16.50 before slipping back to a level of \$14.70 at the year end – still 20% and 50% higher than at the end of 1995 and 1994 respectively. The easing of the price at the year end reflects the volatility of the market but ultimately the need for new material will lead to higher market prices, which will in turn provide a more stable balance as producers are given an incentive to invest in additional capacity. Until that time, price movement will be driven principally by perception, especially in relation to the volume of non-mined material which will be made available to the market. This volume of

non-mined material in turn is subject to a number of variables, potentially adding to the volatility of the market price during the coming year.

One such variable which made the news in 1996 is the stated increase in the scheduled blend-down and shipment of Russian HEU* to the US Enrichment Corporation. US legislation exists to smooth the entry of this material onto the market but, that aside, doubts remain as to the actual physical capacity of Russia to blend down additional volumes of HEU. These and other political and technical uncertainties may well give rise to surprises for market participants in 1997.

* HEU: Highly Enriched Uranium



“1996 saw significant increases in sales and production at Rössing whilst further improvements in unit cost performance and productivities contributed to an improved financial performance.”

- Andrew Hope, MD

Spot price per lb of U₃O₈

| | 31/12/94 | 31/12/95 | | 31/12/96 | |
|--------------|----------|----------|------|----------|------|
| Restricted | \$9.60 | \$12.20 | +27% | \$14.70 | +20% |
| Unrestricted | \$7.20 | \$10.00 | +39% | \$13.75 | +38% |

(Source: NMR Exchange Value)

* Restricted price applies to those transactions in which the buyer/seller is restricted by either the Euratom Supply Agency, the US Department of Commerce or contractually from receiving/delivering CIS origin products and services.

Concurrent with the rise in the spot price during the year was a tumble in spot market volume from around 19 000 tonnes U₃O₈ equivalent in 1995 to less than 9 000 tonnes in 1996. Utilities, in particular in the US, moved their purchasing off-market or into long-term contracts and many exercised

positive flexibilities in their existing contracts to meet their immediate requirements. Producers in turn refrained from selling on the spot market and some intermediaries, who had been dominant sellers in previous years, seemed to have less material for sale.



PHOTOS SENT BY MR K WADA OF MITSUBISHI - JUNE 1995
SIGNING OF CONTRACT AT NO 6 BETWEEN RTZ MINERAL SERVICES & KANSAI ELECTRIC ON 30 MARCH

1999 ... Electricite de France buys our uranium



OUR long established customer, Electricite de France's Executive Vice President: Generation & Transmission, Mr Bernard Esteve and Head of Uranium Enrichment, Mr Thierry Knockaert, visited the Mine recently to review the changes taking place in the Company. The delegation was accompanied by Minserve Managing Director, Mike Travis and Minserve Director: Europe & North-America, Nigel Jones. Andrew Hope and Werner Haymann presented our customer with an overview of our business and operations followed by a tour of the Open Pit and Processing Plant.

Electricite de France is the world's largest publicly owned nuclear utility with 58 reactors supplying 75% of the country's electricity. Its nuclear capacity of nearly 60 000 MWe represents around 50% of the European Union's total.

CUSTOMER... Executive Vice President: Generation & Transmission, Mr Bernard Esteve (fourth from left) and Head of Uranium Enrichment, Mr Thierry Knockaert (third from left) on their visit to the Mine with Andrew Hope (left), Minserve Director, Nigel Jones (second from left), Werner Haymann and Minserve Managing Director, Mike Travis.

DID YOU KNOW?

The MUN has its roots at Rössing. Read more on page 13

Management-Union relations in spotlight 1998 ...



LAST week Company and Union representatives attended a three-day Relationship Building Initiative (RBI) in Swakopmund jointly facilitated by Professor Clive Thompson from Cape Town and Jonathan Sandler from Australia. This was the first time since the recogni-

tion of the union that both parties took time to review their relationships.

The participants critically reviewed the current relationships and issues on Company/Union agenda and identified areas for improvement. The respective teams were led by Branch Ex-

ecutive Chairman, Petrus Tjipute and General Manager, Werner Haymann.

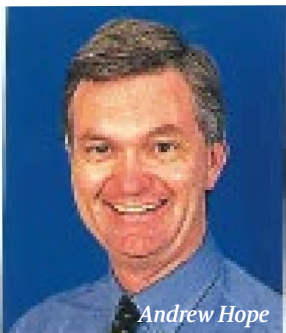
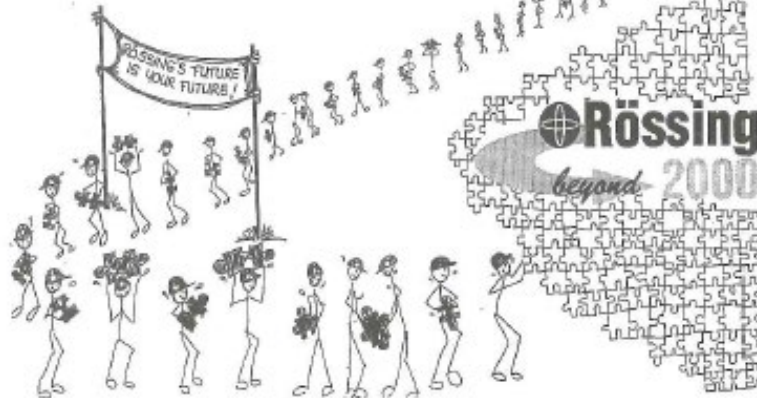
During the next few weeks a number of briefing sessions will take place at which the two parties will have an opportunity to communicate the outcomes of the RBI.

FIRST EVER... Participants of the first ever RBI comprised of members of the Branch Executive Committee, Senior Shop Stewards, Regional Executive Member and Company Representatives.

1999

"Today we launch one of the most important initiatives in the history of Rössing." With these words Managing Director, Andrew Hope, opened the official launch sessions of the Rössing Beyond 2000 programme on the Mine. The programme named, RB 2000 for short, emphasises the road ahead or the way forward for the Company. "Its purpose is to improve our performance and reduce our costs," Andrew said.

RB 2000 A Rössing approach to business improvements



Andrew Hope



David Smith



David Salisbury

The first three Rössing managing directors of the new millennium - Andrew Hope, David Smith and David Salisbury

New Managing Director for Rössing

(25th Feb 2000)

The Chairman of the Rössing Board, Mr Charles Kauraisa, has announced that Managing Director, Mr Andrew Hope, will be leaving Rössing and Rio Tinto in line with previously agreed plans and return to the United Kingdom in April this year.

Mr David Smith, currently General Manager Tarong Coal in Queensland, Australia will succeed Mr Hope as Managing Director on secondment from Rio Tinto. Mr Smith has extensive operational experience within Rio Tinto and his previous appointments include General Manager at the Comalco Research Centre and General Manager at Dampier Salt. He has a doctorate in Metallurgy.

Mr Hope joined Rössing in 1994 as General Manager, a position he held until his promotion to Managing Director in 1996. During the past six years he has been at the helm of many changes and has provided leadership to the company at a particularly challenging and difficult period.

DAVID SALISBURY NEW MD FOR RÖSSING MINE

(3rd July 2001)

The Chairman of Rössing Uranium Limited, Mr Charles Kauraisa is pleased to announce that Mr David Salisbury has been appointed to the position of Managing Director. He joined the Company in October 2000 as General Manager Operations.

Mr Salisbury has been acting in this role since March this year when Dr Dave Smith left to take up a position in Australia.

Mr Salisbury, who is from the United States of America, was the General Manager of Rio Tinto's Ridgeway Gold Mine before he joined Rössing. He has a wide range of mining experience that includes the management of small private companies to large corporations. He holds degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration.

2000 - 2004: Hard times for Rössing

There was very little that Rössing could do about the international spot prices for uranium at the time but watch, wait - and hope. Rising international oil prices held out some positive prospects for an improvement in the price for uranium oxide, but even when the cost of oil rose to over \$50 a barrel in 2002, uranium prices only fluttered. Worse yet, the high oil prices in fact drove up the cost of operations, necessitating ever more belt-tightening at the Mine.

Elsewhere in the uranium mining industry, mines were being closed down one after the other, but Rössing persevered, hoping that the market would eventually improve and save their by then 25-year-old operation. Cost-saving programmes throughout the tough 1990s meant that the mine was able to overcome most of the economic challenges of the time. But in 2001, the international commodity price for uranium hit rock-bottom, at \$7 per pound. This was lower than even the 1992 levels and, combined with ever-rising costs due to fuel price increases, meant major trouble for the mine's future.

Being the fourth-largest of its kind in the world (at the time), Rössing constitutes a low-grade deposit. It could, therefore, remain an economically marginal operation by maintaining relatively high volumes of production. Once prices started declining in the early 1990s, the mine had cut so far back on production that, by 1997, it was only running at two-thirds of its capacity.

The Mine implemented a cost-cutting exercise, but in spite of these measures, rising operational costs meant that losses kept mounting. Faced with another decade of depressed mining conditions, RTZ took a hard decision in 2004: the Rössing Uranium Mine would close down by 2009, bringing 33 years of continuous mining operations to an end. The decision rattled through the local business community like a seismic shock. Although the mine had been disposing of all the non-core assets it could over for the ten years up that point, and had cut back the working force to a bare minimum, it had always hoped that there would somehow be a recovery to its glory days, when Rössing had been a byword for progress.

Another sign of the times was a decision by the Rössing Foundation to reduce the overall staff complement and downsize the Foundation Head Office at the Khomasdal Adult Education Centre in particular. With the Foundation's work now concentrated in the Erongo and north-central regions, the Centre was felt to have outlived its purpose. Following negotiations with the Department of Adult Education, a decision was taken in early 2005 to sell the Foundation's former flagship premises to the State for N\$12 million. The Foundation's Head Office staff - now reduced to a mere handful - were relocated to smaller offices at 360 Sam Nujoma Drive in Klein Windhoek, opposite the St Paul's High School. Nonetheless, the Khomasdal Adult Education Centre continued to play a key role in training marginalised Namibians. Today it is the home of the Namibia Training Authority (NTA).

DID YOU KNOW?

Rössing's current life-of-mine is 2025

2005 . . .

EXPLORATION

The year under review saw an upsurge in the uranium price, a fact which rekindled interest in uranium exploration worldwide. In line with world uranium market trends, therefore, Rössing Mine is paving the way for increased production and growing the business. A number of steps have already been taken to ensure that the mine's short- and long-term plans deliver results.

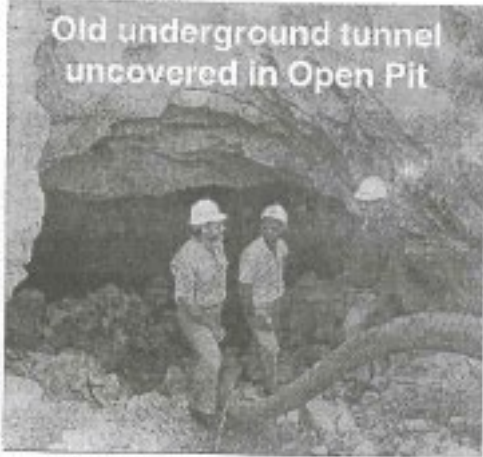
In the second half of 2005, Rössing brought in exploration geologists from Rio Tinto Exploration South Africa to take another look at areas where uranium was found during the 1970s. A helicopter survey was done, bringing in a much-needed information update about where radioactive geological formations in and around the mining lease area were, and what their size was. This was followed by an extensive literature survey of exploration records dating from the 1970s, sampling of rocks at surface, and re-evaluating historical information from past exploration drilling.

Mine Life Extension



Our history in photos

1998 ...



Old underground tunnel uncovered in Open Pit

"DEEP UNDER OPENED UP... Part of Rössing's early history came to light when an underground tunnel, excavated in 1976, was uncovered on Bench 18 on the northern side of the Open Pit. Herbert Hanke, Gerry Armat and Paul Rooi at the opening to the tunnel.

1999 ...



New haultruck pans arrive on site... The first of five 182 tonne haultruck pans for Rössing's new Komatsu Haulpak 730E trucks arrived on site. The pan was transported by road from Sishen in South Africa by NATRO over a distance of 1 700km.

2006 ...

• **RÖSSING** once again made history when the first ever female Driller, Christina Titus, joined the drilling team.



AT HOME... Christina is very much at home in her cabin.

1996 - 2006



Minister of Mines and Energy goes for a ride on haultruck

55... The Minister of Mines and Energy, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, fulfilled a longstanding wish when he went for a ride on a haultruck during a visit to Rössing mine. The operator who had the honour of driving the Minister from bench 18 to the primary crushers, was Samuel Haywala.



1996 ...

2003 ...



Haultruck 76 loaded the one billionth tonne of rock from the open pit on 9 October 2003.



▪ Almost 27 years to the day since the very first uranium oxide was produced on 25 June 1976, we produced our 100 000th short tonne of uranium. This is a significant milestone in the history of the Mine.

2003 ...



Mike Leech
Managing Director
Rössing Uranium

2006 ...

1998 . . .

Rössing's radio jingle supports "Use Water Wisely" campaign

RÖSSING is supporting the "Use Water Wisely" campaign with a jingle which is presently being broadcast on the NBC's National Radio Services.

The jingle: "We don't want to go to war on water - let's save now for a future in peace", was written by Superintendent Environmental Engineering, Rainer Schneeweiss, and chosen among several submitted. Well done Rainer!

The aim is to reaffirm Rössing's continuous drive and com-

mitment to use water wisely. It also aims to assist in creating an awareness among the people of Namibia not to waste water.

The Rössing jingle is being played from 10 August until 8 September 1998 on the English, Oshiwambo and Afrikaans Radio Services.

These radio services have a broad listenership and the jingle is expected to greatly contribute towards creating an awareness to use water wisely.

The estimated listenership for the radio services are 277 000

for English, 297 000 for Oshiwambo and 102 000 for the Afrikaans Radio Service.

The campaign was launched in 1995 as a joint venture between the City of Windhoek and interested Namibian companies. The companies who are participating in the same time slot as Rössing are the First National Bank of Namibia, Multichoice Namibia and MTC, each with its own jingle.

The production of the jingles was facilitated by the Windhoek-based advertising agency and production house, Radical Exposures.

According to Konrad Schwiager of Radical Exposures, the "Use Water Wisely" campaign is attracting different companies wishing to "sponsor" a radio message to conserve water. He said that although our water resources are not at critical levels at the moment, it cannot be ignored that one dry sea-

son can have major consequences.

He said the campaign has proved to be successful in making people aware not to waste water.

Rössing was presented with a "Save Water" certificate by the City Council of Windhoek in recognition of our sponsorship to the campaign.

Employees can listen to the jingle daily until 8 September 1998 during the following times:

- English Radio Service between 10:00 - 12:00, 12:00 - 14:00 and 18:00 - 21:00.
- Oshiwambo Radio Service between 07:15 - 9:00, 10:00 - 12:00, 14:00 - 17:00 and 18:00 - 21:00.
- Afrikaans Radio Service between 07:15 - 9:00, 10:00 - 12:00, 14:00 - 18:00 and 17:00 - 21:00.

We don't want to go to war on water - let's save now for a future in peace.

PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH... Superintendent Environmental Engineering, Rainer Schneeweiss, wrote the jingle to encourage people to save water.



WOW!



"Rössing I believe sets the standard when it comes to water consumption, the responsible handling of water. I believe at the moment they recycle more than half of their water. You show me any other industry in this country that does that. They have reduced their water consumption by something unbelievable."

2003 . . . Eckart Demasius, Chief Executive Officer, Swakopmund Municipality



Check it out!



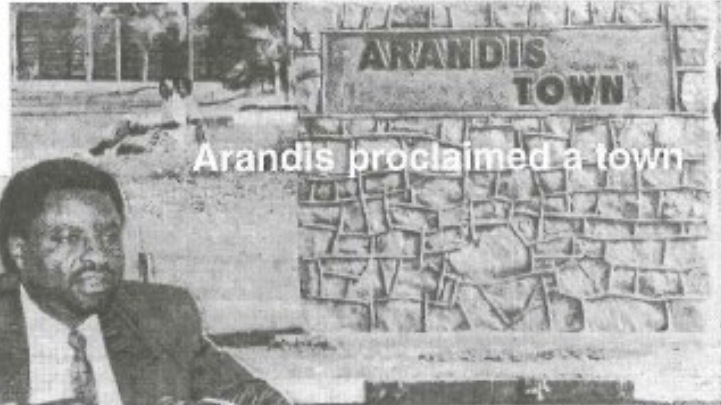
"A warm handshake in a cool place! Administration Manager, Mike Leech, handed over the refurbished Arandis swimming pool to the Mayor of Arandis, Harry Hoabeb. Rössing completely refurbished the pool, which has been out of use for about two years."



1993...

Rössing's "coolest" handover yet!

Town Clerk of Arandis, Mr Philemon Mwapangasha.



Arandis proclaimed a town

"Quietly, with no pomp and ceremony, Arandis has become a town. In spite of the low key publicity that the Government announcement has received, it does in fact have far reaching implications for Arandis residents. Not the least of these is that very shortly they will be required to elect seven local councillors to whom they will entrust the administration of their town."

1992...

1997...

WOW!



DID YOU KNOW?

We were the first industrial user in Namibia of environmentally friendly unleaded petrol

"Rössing gets unleaded

petrol... David Noabeb from Outside Services shows a thumbs-up for our environmentally friendly unleaded petrol. Rössing will be the first industrial user in Namibia to have unleaded petrol on site, according to Shell Namibia. Unleaded petrol has the benefit that exhaust gases released during the combustion process of a running engine, do not have lead as a toxic by-product released into the atmosphere."



1997...

"Loss Control leads the way to non-smoking areas..."

Chief of Loss Control, Willem van Rooyen, and Loss Control Officer, Keith Goodhew, put up the sticker to declare the very first non-smoking building on the mine. This means that nobody will be allowed to smoke in that building any more."

Rössing sells property for N\$1 to help establish House of Safety

1998...



"The plight of abused and homeless children was answered tenfold with two major events taking place towards the establishment of a House of Safety for the children in the Erongo Region. The handing over of the keys of the former Rössing Single Quarters in Tamariskia by General Manager, Werner Haymann, to the Governor of the Erongo Region, Mr Asser Kapere, preceded the official opening of the House of Safety for Abused and Destitute Persons by the Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, Dr Nickey Iyambo. Mr Kapere explained that a trust fund for the facility will be run by a board of trustees which has already been established through the Erongo Development Foundation (EDF). The US Embassy in Namibia donated N\$66 000 towards the purchasing of furniture for the facility. From the left are Dr Nickey Iyambo, US Embassy Political Officer, Mr Louis Mazel, Werner Haymann and Mr Asser Kapere."

Amazing mining record set in 1993 . . .



Vaino sets shovel record

* Day shift on 22 April saw a special achievement in the Open Pit section. With shovel 11 down for eight hours on service, and shovel 12 on breakdown for almost three hours, it looked as if the production targets were not going to be met. Luckily nobody told this to Vaino Samuel, shovel 10's operator. He responded in magnificent form by loading 19 720 tonnes, or 136 haultrucks, in seven hours. Usually the shovels average about 70-80

loads. Because Vaino's total is far ahead of any previous record, it has been decided to recognise this achievement and set it as a target for all shovel operators to aim for. To put things into perspective, Vaino loaded a 145 tonne haultruck every three minutes of his shift, achieving 2 820 tonnes per hour for the seven hours of operating time. Vaino is congratulated by Operations Engineer, Len Jubber and Production Foreman, Karel Majledt, with the team of operators and truck drivers.*



The Rössing HSE Reps of 2001 pictured on site with the managing director at the time - David Salisbury (front row, third from the right). To the MD's immediate left is John Mootseng, current shift controller in the Processing plant. On the far right is Paul Rooi - previous HSE manager at the mine.

"Rössing athletes win Chamber of Mines"

1988: "Three-hundred-and-fifty athletes and tug-of-war men from Uis, Tsumeb, Oranjemund and Rössing converged on Windhoek stadium for the annual Chamber of Mines Athletics meet. By no means was the outcome cut-and-dried before the first starting gun was fired: it was no easy win in searing heat. The overall points were RUL 382, TCL 310, CDM 212 and Uis 47."



"Nail-bite finish in the 400m in which Rössing's Daniel Muhuura touched ground across the winning line just 0.2 of a second ahead of CDM contestor, Martin Dandu."

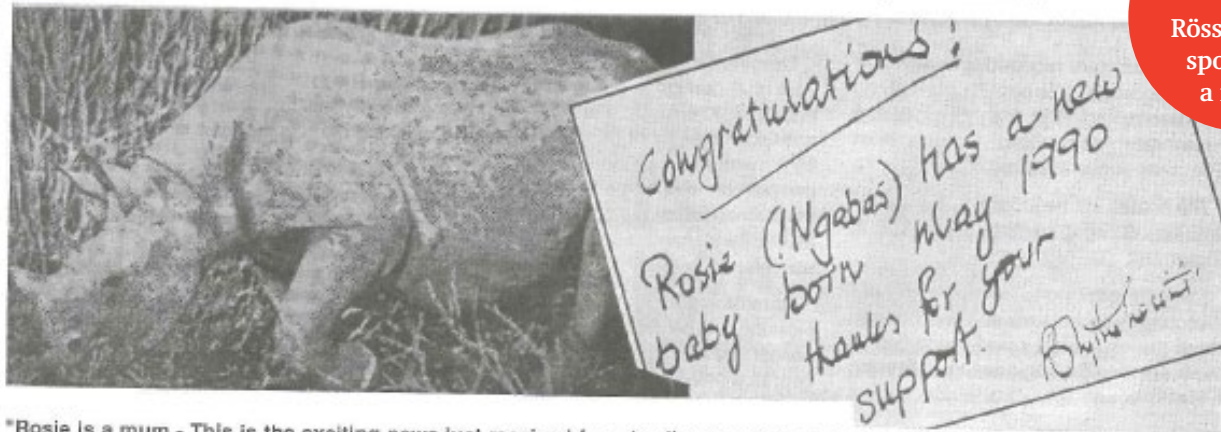


"Great-looking members of the victorious Rössing women's team: Olivia Kanene, Carol Musiol, Ruth Dunkel, Aura Quirke and (foreground) Eva Tjahkika."



DID YOU KNOW?

Daniel Utapi Muhuura (in top left photo as well) is a former mayor of Arandis. His last term as mayor of our neighbouring town ended in 2015.



DID YOU KNOW?
Rössing once sponsored a rhino!

"Rosie is a mum - This is the exciting news just received from leading member of the Save The Rhino Trust, Blythe Loutit. As we only recently discovered that Rosie, the Damaraland black rhino sponsored by Rössing, was expecting a calf, the arrival date of which was unknown, it was indeed a pleasant surprise to receive Blythe's note through the post. Namibia has the only increasing rhino population in Africa, thanks to the continual monitoring of the home ranges by Save The Rhino Trust volunteers and helpers and the involvement of the local people in protecting the animals."

Safe Shift Starts Initiative

Providing the line/supervisors with 5 minutes safety talk topics at the beginning of the week became a problem for the safety section, as most of the topics sent out are not relevant to the scenarios experienced in the work areas during that particular week.

The safety section in conjunction with the safety manager, assisted by the OHSE reps embarked on the Safe Shift Start system, in order to involve the workforce and to make them part of the Safe Shift Start system.

At the beginning, as it was a new system, a lot of the

workforce partly rejected it, but as they started to understand the meaning and what contribution the workforce could make, they accepted the system as their own.

Joe Geiseb & Joe Shaduka

2006 . . .



1998 ...

Computers become trainers at Processing

WHEN you see Training Officer, Seth Musinga, walking and the Processing Plant with a video camera, be assured he is not filming for "Candid Camera". He is busy collecting material for Computer Based Training (CBT).

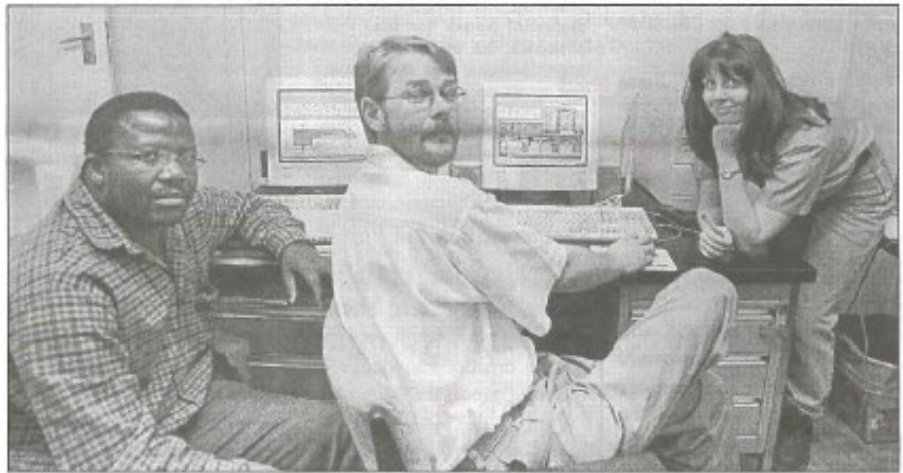
CBT looks beyond traditional classroom methods to train employees. It is an easy way to learn new skills with a "trainer" that is available 24 hours per day.

The process uses a computer as the focal point for instruction to guide learners step-by-step through a training programme with text, graphics, photos, video, sound and question-and-answer sessions to enhance the learning process. The trainee sits down at a computer and works through the training module before taking the exam.

CBT works on the basis that people retain only 10% of the information they read but up to 50% when they read, hear and "see" it. In future all employees in Processing receiving training will use the CBT modules.

The aim of CBT is to provide efficient skills training in sequence so that the employee's task performance can increase.

It is the ideal way to introduce employees to new tasks to promote multi-skilling.



CBT TEAM... From the left are Training Officer Processing, Seth Musinga, dBlue Consultant, Petrus van der Merwe and Human Resource Development Officer Processing, Stephanie Maritz.

Company and MUN sign 1999 salary agreement

SIGNED AND SEALED... Last Friday the Company and MUN concluded the annual salary negotiations. General Manager, Werner Haymann (sitting second from left), MUN Branch Executive Committee Vice Chairman, Cosmas Uvanga (sitting middle), and other Company and Committee representatives were at the signing of the agreement.



• to be continued on p. 2



Peer educator training in 2001.

Is that Susan I spot in the middle ... ?*

**Susan Labuschagne is Rössing's current superintendent Health Management*

Y2K . . . why the fuss?

1998 . . .

Year 2000 forum launched

by Hella Froese

RÖSSING'S Year 2000 Project Sponsor, Mike Leech, supported by Namdeb and the Government's Year 2000 Project Director, Gordon Hill, initiated the formation of the National Y2K Forum last week. Also supporting this initiative were other major service providers, namely Standard Bank, First National Bank, Namwater, Telecom Namibia,

Nampower, Legal Assistance Centre and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

The forum aims to create an awareness of the Year 2000 problem by sharing information on a national basis and to assist other businesses, be they small, medium or micro enterprises (SMME), on how to deal with the problem.

A further aim of the Forum is to provide a platform where members are able to advise on progress made with their own projects. This is so that all major industry players have information on the overall state of readiness of key players inter-linking with their businesses.

The first exchange of 'sharing information' with other businesses took place on 7 October 1998 at the Windhoek Office. Mike approached some of Rössing's major business partners to share in Rössing's project status and invite other companies to do the same.

• to be continued on p. 2



DID YOU KNOW?

The Y2K fuss began years ahead of the date in question. Back in 1998, the phrase "Y2K" (that's for "year two thousand") first appeared in TIME in a story that explained the problem as this: "The bug at the center of the Year 2000 mess is fairly simple. In what's proving to be a shortsighted shortcut, many system programmers set aside only two digits to denote the year in dates, as in 06/15/98 rather than 06/15/1998. Trouble is, when the computer's clock strikes 2000, the math can get screwy. Date-based equations like $98 - 97 = 1$ become $00 - 97 = -97$. That can prompt some computers to do the wrong thing and stop others from doing anything at all."

Though most prognosticators cautioned that the necessary programs would get fixed in time, the fear of a fallout was still scary enough for TIME to put the hysteria on its cover in January of 1999 under the headline The End of the World!?!



NATIONAL Y2K FORUM...

Attending the launch of the National Y2K Forum were from the back left Martin Hirsch (Rössing), Deon Karg (Standard Bank), Jan Labuschagne (First National Bank), David Moncur (Namwater), Mike Leech (Rössing), Holger Oberprieler (Telecom) and Gert Muller (Namdeb).

In the front left were Medardus Kangombe (Nampower), Gordon Elliott and Dave Hill (Government of Namibia), Festus Hamukwaya (Legal Assistance Centre) and John Marsh (National Democratic Institute NDI).

FLASHBACK

... to 1987
and the
birth of a
union!

New era launched with recognition of Trade Union

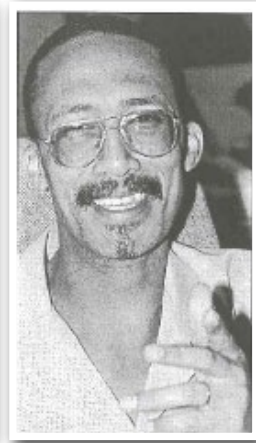
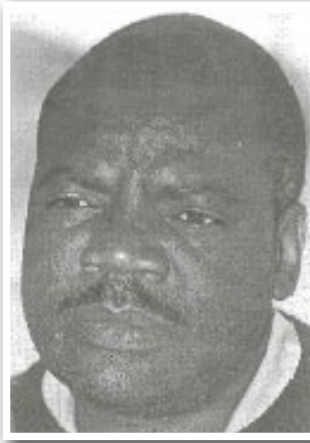
WOW!



The signing of the historic *Union Recognition Agreement* last Friday. Seated are Winston Groenewald, General Secretary of the Union, General Manager, Mike Bates, Acting Chairman of the Rössing Union, Julius Khunchab, and Assistant General Manager, Steve Kesler. Standing are Union Executive Members, Paul Rooi and Leonard Shapumba, Industrial Relations Officer, Dougie Smith, Union Executive, Clinton Southgate, Industrial and Public Relations Supt., Charles Kauraisa, Council Officer, Annamarie du Preez, Union Executive Daniel Okamaru and Personnel Manager, Phil Brown

INTERESTING FACT:

The current Mineworkers Union, Rössing branch chairperson, Abiud Kapere, is the son of Asser Kuveri Kapere - former president of the same union in Namibia. Asser is also the former chairperson of the National Council of the country as well as a former Rössing employee.



GUESS WHO?

Guess the correct identities of all these (current) Rössing employees and win a brand new Rössing sport shirt and cap! Email your answer to: rul.communications@riotinto.com
Winners will be drawn on Thursday, 23 June 2016.

1995 . . .



Minister of Mines and Energy, Toivo ya Toivo, and guests on top of the CIX Plant during a recent visit

Miss Universe
1995
visited Rössing



MISS USA... Chelsi Smith visited Rössing. She was later crowned Miss Universe in Windhoek

US Ambassador visits mine



1999 . . .

NEW AMBASSADOR... The United States of America's Ambassador in Namibia, Mr Jeffrey Bader (fourth from left), and Economic Commercial Officer, Mr John Warner (third from left), visited the Mine earlier this month. Werner Haymann briefed them on our operations while Dr Jamie Pretorius (second from left), informed them on our environmental programmes.

Acting Managers Processing & Production and Mining, Bernard Morwe (left) and Johan Coetzee (right) respectively, accompanied them on a tour of the Open Pit and Processing Plant.

FAMOUS FRIENDS

The in-house
 electronic bulletin of
 Rössing Uranium Ltd.

Friday, 24 January 2003

e - Rössing Bulletin

Sands Conveyor construction at a critical stage

CONSTRUCTION of the Sands Conveyor has reached a point of no return with the dismantling of the existing tailings pump systems.

This means that the tailings can no longer be pumped from the Rotoscops to the Tailings Dam until the new Sands Conveyor is in operation.

Operations handed over the tailings pump system on 16 January to be dismantled after being in operation for more than 25 years. The tailings pump system will now be replaced by the Sands Conveyor system.

Progress review

Superintendent Projects, Pine van Wyk, said that activity on the project increased significantly since shutdown started on 20 December last year.

The total number of people who actively work on site for the project is about 200 at this stage. This includes all contractors and in-

involved Rössing employees.

At this stage there are only six weeks left with a lot of work that still needs to be done to meet the commissioning target date of early March this year.

Effective team work between construction, electrical, instrumentation and process control will be required to meet the tight project schedule.

The civil construction, such as the support bases for the steel pillars and pump station foundations, is well advanced and about 90% completed.

Although about 70% of the overland conveyor system has been erected at this stage, the work is behind schedule due to late delivery of the fabricated steel. This pushed the construction of the overland conveyor into the shutdown period and as a result a lot more work was pushed into the shutdown period.

• continued on p. 2



THEN & NOW... The photo above was taken in July last year with the construction of the steel pillar bases at the Rotoscops. Photo below - Last week the conveyor belt on the transverse conveyor was already pulled in.



THEN & NOW... Photo above - Last year in July the area for the pump station on the Tailings Dam was prepared for construction. In January this year (photo below) a lot of the construction work has been completed.

UP THE MOUNTAIN... Construction work on the overland conveyor from the Rotoscops to the top of the Tailings Dam is about 70% completed.



What happened to seawater desalination?

by Sandra Muller
Geo-Hydrologist

MANY of us have heard about NamWater's plans to build a seawater desalination plant at Swakopmund that would provide enough drinking water for the coast, even in times of drought.

During the last few years it has become very quiet and people ask if the plans are off or if the plant will still be built in future.

This article gives some background on why the plans for desalination were shelved in 2000 and a possible outlook if the Mine's life is extended into the 2020s. The final decision on the need for the desalination plant is still up to NamWater.

Background

Water for the coastal region is pumped from underground storage in the Kuisieb and Omaruru rivers. There is only a certain amount of groundwater that can safely be withdrawn without using up the resources.

This limit is set by experts in the Department of

Water Affairs and is currently 12.9 million cubic metres per year (Mm³/a). It is shown as "Supply Limit" in the graph below on the left.

Why desalination?

The columns in the graph show the water consumption of the various users from 1990 to 2002. In some years, such as 1990 and 1998, the actual volumes used were very close to the supply limit. NamWater in fact has to pump up to 1 Mm³/a more water because of losses from leaking pipelines. For instance in 1998, they pumped 12.9 Mm³ from the rivers, which is exactly at the limit.

At this stage everybody believed that an additional water source was necessary and plans for desalination advanced to the stage of asking suppliers for tenders and testing the desalination process at the Swakopmund jetty.

NamWater had selected a company to construct the plant and was negotiating water supply contracts with the coastal Municipalities and the Mine when Nature came

to the rescue.

Floods in 1997 and 2000

In 1997 and 2000 very good rains fell and the Kuisieb River flowed for many days. The stored water was filled up to a level that was last seen in 1986 (see graph below on the right).

This means that enough water for Walvis Bay should be available for about 10 years at the present pumping rates.

Swakopmund and Rössing however obtain their water from the Omaruru River, which did not receive much inflow. The water table in the wellfield near Henties Bay continues to drop, but there is still much water stored underground.

NamWater assessed the newsituation and decided to postpone the introduction of desalination.

Currently there is a comfortable gap of over 2 Mm³/a between consumption and supply limit.

This could shrink if the water demand grows, for instance due to major industrial development in Walvis Bay or if Rössing goes to full

production without additional water saving measures.

Outlook

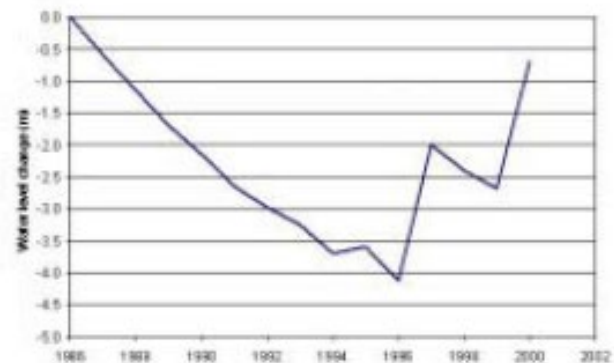
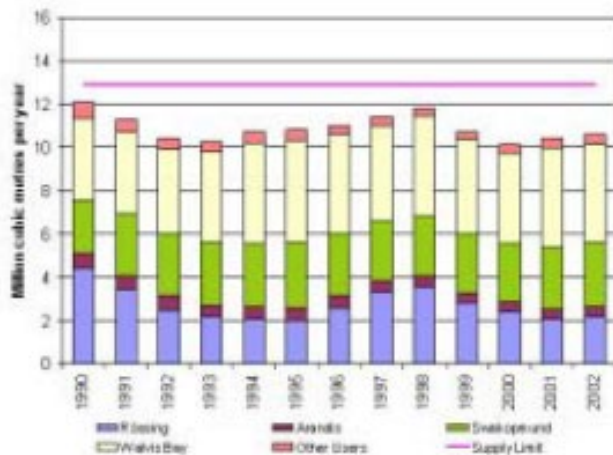
If we continue mining beyond the end of this decade and production is increased, we will have to watch the water demand closely. Increasing production means using more water, as we need about 200 litres for each tonne of ore milled.

If we do not extend the life-of-mine, the water resources will be sufficient for the remaining operational years and after mine closure the coastal towns can make use of Rössing's share to take them well into the future.

Rössing, the Municipalities of Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, some smaller bulk water users and NamWater have formed the Coastal Bulk Water User's Forum to share information about their future water demand and discuss developments.

Other options of reducing the towns' water consumption can still be explored, such as wastewater recycling.

However, if necessary, NamWater might dig out the plans for a desalination plant again.



2004 . . .

- Hendrik Bok received the Top Student Award from the Institute of Quarrying of Southern Africa.



Superintendent:
 Load & Haul



DID YOU KNOW?

The Omba Arts Trust was established by the Rössing Foundation in 2004. Then followed the development of the Namibia Crafts Centre in Windhoek as an independent, non-profit organisation.

2006 . . .



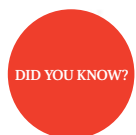
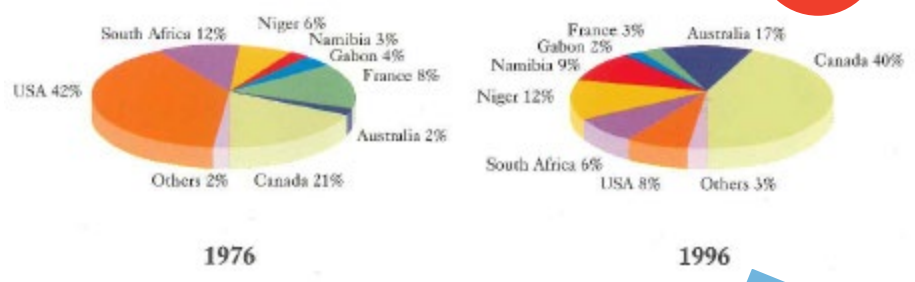
Rössing donates rocks to NBRI

Rössing is cooperating with researchers of the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), in Windhoek, to better understand which plants with biodiversity value are found in the environment within our mining licence area.

Earlier in the year the Institute requested support to transport typical desert rocks to the botanical gardens in Windhoek for setting up a desert display. The display will consist of plants and rocks typical for an area in a desert environment.

After careful consideration of their request, it was decided to take rocks from behind the tailings dam (area will be disturbed with the expansion of the dam) and with the services of Erongo Contract Services, special care was taken to select the total of approximately 9 tonnes of different rocks (larger than 0.25m, but smaller than 0.5m in diameter).

WESTERN WORLD URANIUM PRODUCTION
 Source: Uranium Institute and TradeTech



Tell us your story

Do you have a Rössing story to tell? Whether you're a current or former employee, we would love to hear from you!

If you have photos or memories to share, please get in touch: rul.communications@riotinto.com / botha.ellis@riotinto.com / alwyn.lubbe@riotinto.com / Tel: 064 - 520 2426 / 2436 / Fax: 064 - 520 1506

