

DOWNREAY NEWS

The **Site** Newspaper

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copy

June 2008

INVESTIGATING THE OLD DIFFUSER

– full story on centre pages

NEW
- Performance
Report
Insert



**PRAISE FOR
DOWNREAY WORKERS**

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**ENGINEERING STUDENTS GIVE
THEIR VIEWS OF DOWNREAY**

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**FOUR GENERATIONS
OF MACLEAN**

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ON THE RECORD

By
Simon Middlemas
Dounreay Director

It's now over a year since the first edition of Dounreay News.

The feedback generally has been very good. People like to read about people. I wanted the newspaper to become a voice where everyone felt they could have their say openly. Sue the editor has done a fine job achieving this.

Many of you tell me you'd also like to know more about the projects, that you do not get enough information about what's happening in other areas of the site. So we reviewed how this is reported and tried to improve it.

This month sees the start of a new report all about site performance. We've done away with the old quarterly report I used to send to the site stakeholder group and the old Dounreay Bulletin has given way to a new web-based news service.

But this is your newspaper. Tell Sue what you would like to see in it. Tell her if you see something you disagree with. Even better, write in and she'll look at publishing your article...

We have a lot of good news to report, probably more so than at any time in the recent past. We are now making serious in-roads into the major hazards, the old facilities in the FCA are being gutted and we're delivering against our safety and cost performance targets.

We should not be shy about this. We should be proud of what we have achieved, not inferior or worried we'll get egg on our face. Of course, we will have setbacks. This is difficult and hazardous work. But it is precisely because it is so challenging that we should do more to recognise the success we are achieving.

The new report being distributed with Dounreay News is all about that performance.

If you read the technical press, you may have noticed some more coverage of Dounreay recently, too. We have a good story to tell. Let's not be shy about telling it. ■

You can contribute to the success of the newspaper by sending us your feedback, either through the intranet, or by phoning Sue Thompson on extension 6085.



IT'S YOUR PAPER – HAVE YOUR SAY.

NDA BOSS PRAISES DOUNREAY WORKERS



From left: NDA Manager - Randall Bargelt, NDA Chairman - Stephen Henwood, NDA Chief Executive - Dr Ian Roxburgh, DFR Manager - Mike Brown, UKAEA Chief Executive - Norman Harrison, DSRL's MD - Simon Middlemas

NDA Chief Executive Dr Ian Roxburgh was full of praise for Dounreay when he and newly appointed NDA Chairman Mr Stephen Henwood visited in April.

This was the first opportunity for Stephen Henwood to see Dounreay and he left with a good first impression of the site.

The NDA bosses visited the prototype fast reactor, where work continues to destroy the liquid metal coolant, and the Dounreay fast reactor, where they viewed the modern facility being constructed to remove the remaining breeder elements from the reactor. They also toured the plutonium criticality laboratory,

which has been extensively cleaned up and is now on the verge of demolition.

Dr Roxburgh declared the work on site to be "remarkable". In a letter to Dounreay's Managing Director Simon Middlemas, he praised the quality and speed of the decommissioning and the way that the workforce were prepared to "go the extra mile".

"Particularly impressive is the progress made within the

plutonium criticality laboratory thanks to the willingness of the team to work in hot uncomfortable conditions for long periods at a time.

"Everywhere we went we saw evidence of pride in being a part of DSRL and high morale. Most important of all, the work continues to be carried out in an increasingly safe manner. Please pass on my thanks to everyone at the site." ■

Apology for Error

In the May issue we incorrectly included the Mitsui Babcock logo in our story on page 10 about the Babcock International Group acquiring Strachan & Henshaw. We apologise for this error.

Babcock International Group plc is a leading support services company. Their £1.2Bn market capitalisation ranks them among the top 200 quoted companies in the UK. Their customer base includes the MoD, Royal Navy, National Grid, Network Rail, BNFL and UKAEA.

Doosan Babcock, as we should have called them, is the largest supplier of operational support for the nuclear industry in the UK. ■



Doosan Babcock Energy

Page 3 Pin up

Name: Pat Kieran
Job: Senior C&I Design Engineer, Engineering Assurance
Employer: DSRL

Tell us what you do at Dounreay?
 I help people across the site to solve Control & Instrumentation problems. People don't always talk to each other between the different projects, so I try and pin down common problems and put things in place so they don't happen so often.

What's the best bit?
 Learning new stuff every day, and knowing when you've made a difference (for the better!).

....and the worst bit?
 Not having enough time to finish a task properly.

What were you doing before?
 (Can be on or off site)
 I taught engineering at North Highland College for 20 years, Vulcan before that and Osprey (Kongsberg) before that. I'm now working with (and occasionally for!) folk I've taught over the years.

....and what will you do when this job finishes?
 "Retire" and maybe do some freelance work for pocket money, go surfing, maybe science tuition or whatever comes my way. Who knows?


What hobbies or other interests do you have outside of work?
 I do some private Maths/Physics tuition, as I have for the last 26 years. I help to run the Science Festival. I sing with Melvich Gaelic Choir. I surf, very occasionally, and I bankroll my four kids. Come to think of it, maybe I can't afford to retire...



If there was one thing I would change for the better about Dounreay.....

Give us some more engineers! This is a great place to live, sell Dounreay on the lifestyle, not just the jobs and the money. Maybe try the surfing or other outdoor activity mags for a job ad. Otherwise, DSRL is a pretty good employer. Maybe more holiday. I'm still getting used to not having six weeks off in the summer, but I don't expect anyone to cry for me over that one! ■

Want to be our next Page 3 pin-up?
- Call Sue on: 01847 806085



OFF-THE-RECORD
 By **Stephen White**
 DSRL Chairman
Guest Columnist

While I was walking in the Yorkshire Dales at Easter, I started thinking about the Romans or more specifically about their language, which still has its uses today. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's motto – E minimis maxima, 'from the smallest things come the greatest things', has a particular relevance at this important moment in our history.

As we divide into a number of companies, it would be very easy to accentuate our separate identities. But we are part of a greater whole and we will only succeed individually if we succeed together. To paraphrase the motto – don't think small, think big!

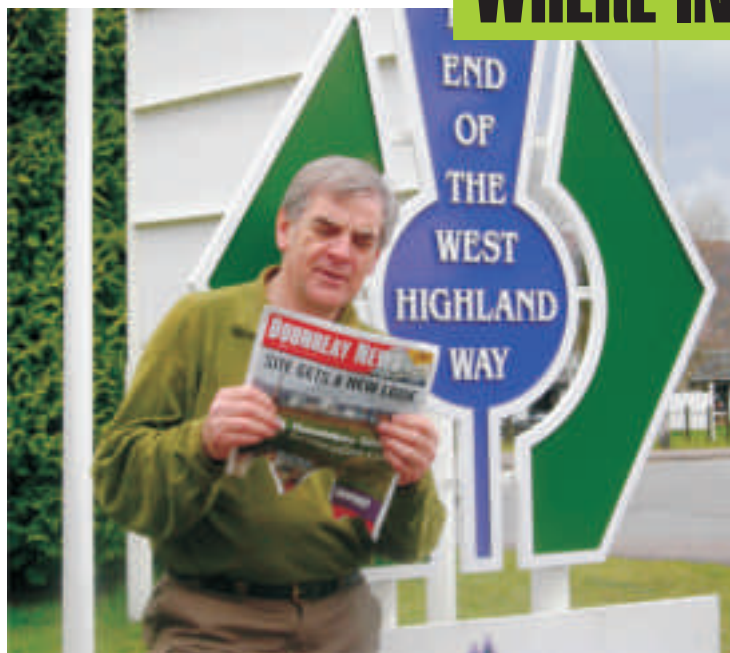
The success of UKAEA depends on the positive impact of our Site Licence Companies. This contributes to current profits but it also opens doors in our search for the new customers we need for sustainability. Similarly, the SLC's require the management and technical skills that a strong and healthy UKAEA Ltd can provide. UKAEA needs to deliver for them and they, in turn, need to understand what UKAEA has to offer.

Furthermore, a successful UKAEA fusion programme lends substance and credibility to the overall reputation and brand of our Group and will help to create opportunity for UKAEA.

We can't afford to break the family ties in this brave new world. UKAEA is carving out its own successful future and has to stand on its own feet. But strong families and their individual members give mutual support without subverting their respective identities.

Going back to Latin, my school motto was Ad unum omnes, 'all for one and one for all'. It's funny how things can seem more relevant now than they did at the time. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD



"Tattered and torn but good to the end, - and the Dounreay News was not bad either," says Gus Mackay, pictured with the remains of the site's mag. He had just completed the West Highland Way along with his brother Andy. ■

HIGHLIGHTING HERITAGE

As decommissioning progresses at pace, the topic of preserving Dounreay's heritage for the curiosity and wonderment of future generations, becomes more important.

If you look back one hundred years, Wick's famous herring industry has come and gone. Unfortunately, only a few artefacts and a small slice of the fishing culture have been salvaged by the Wick Heritage Society. Dounreay is in the fortunate position of having the opportunity to plan ahead and maximise the preservation of its cultural heritage. The excellent Caithness

Horizons project will provide a great window for showing the Dounreay story.

You may think that there is plenty of time, but, the list of the surviving Dounreay pioneers is rapidly becoming smaller and action is needed sooner, rather than later, on capturing the early social history.

As most people are interested in heritage to varying degrees, Dounreay News will have regular features on the subject and so maintain the profile. The first one concentrates on the early photographs of the construction of the sea discharge system covering the entrance adit, sloping tunnel, effluent tunnel, diffuser chamber and risers. They have been collated by Martin

Howse. The system is an important facility that very few have ever seen.

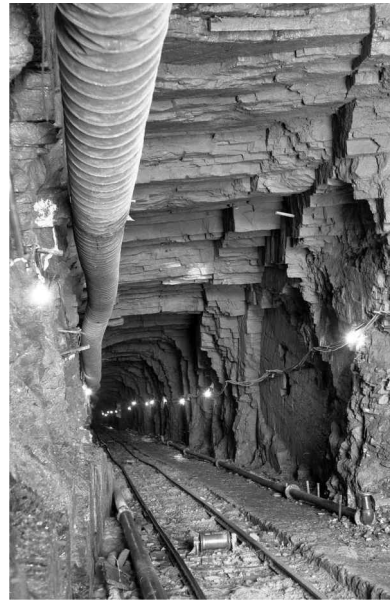
Some of the photos have people in them. If you can name any of these people or know of someone who might be able to help, please contact **Martin Howse** on ext 6018 or the Dounreay Heritage Officer, **James Gunn** on ext 6039. ■



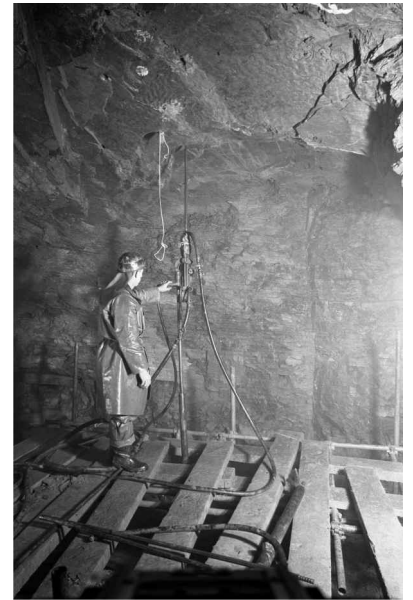
Scaffolding in the old diffuser chamber during construction. The layers of Caithness flagstone can be clearly seen on the left hand side of the photo along with the drill holes used to blast the rock during tunnel excavation. September 1957.



Working in the low active effluent tunnel, 46m below sea level. It's always night down here during the three-shift 24 hour working day. Taken in 1956/57.



Looking down the 3:1 incline adit from the surface entrance. Also seen is the ventilation tube rail line for Whatlings personnel and spoil truck access. The layers of Caithness flagstone can be clearly seen. Taken in 1956/57.



Drilling into the roof of the old diffuser chamber, possibly during the procedure to pressure grout the region above the chamber. September 1957.



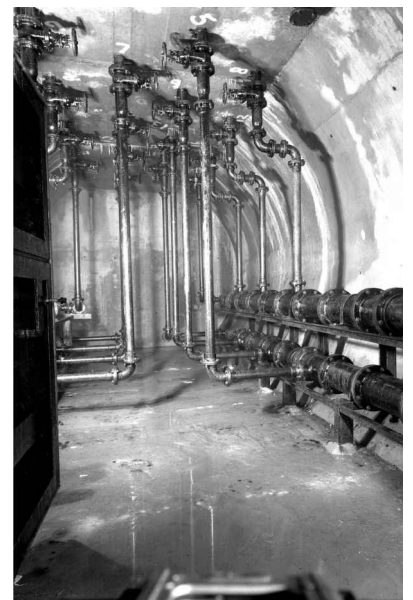
We're all very happy now, if not a little wet. Pipes 1-4 are now drilled above the 6" mild steel pipes and are now connected to the discharge system. Late 1957.



Securing the four 9" diameter cast iron effluent pipes into the adit by encasing in concrete haunching. The pipes lead up to the D1211 sea discharge pits. Taken in late 1957.



The view from inside the old diffuser chamber at the bulkhead door. Two 9" effluent pipes can be seen on either side of the chamber. The chamber is at the top of a 1:200 incline towards the base of the shaft. Late 1957.



The completed old diffuser chamber seen for the last time before the door is shut forever in 1957 and the tunnel, chamber and adit allowed to flood naturally with water. Taken in late 1957.

SPONSORED STUDENTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS OF DOUNREAY

DSRL's eight sponsored engineering students came to Dounreay for a tour of the drawing office, PFR and the DFR breeder removal project a couple of months ago.

So what impressions did they take away with them?

During my recent tour of the Dounreay site we went to the drawing office in the new office block, PFR and finally DFR.

At PFR we saw pictures of the pool of sodium in the reactor vessel that is still left to be processed. It amounts to about 5 tons of material, which seemed a lot until we were told that when the reactor was operational it held 1500 tons. The majority has been treated and discharged through the Sodium Disposal Plant that we next visited. The plant gave the impression of lots of small concrete rooms with pipes, valves and tanks in every direction. From here we went to the area where the irradiated fuel was processed. In the large room there was a line of shielded cells each with manipulators hanging down the outside. The cells had an orange glow and many of the contents had a grey layer of oxidised sodium on them. We were told that operators in airline suits made entries through hatches into the cells to clean them.

After leaving PFR we were taken to DFR to see the new containment building that will be used to process and package the breeder elements from the reactor. When we visited the equipment was still being installed and there was scaffolding everywhere, and electricians were busy connecting all the wiring. Despite this we were able to see the control room, the process cells with square holes where the windows will be fitted, the robot that will test the waste drums for contamination, the two massive steel shield doors and the trolleys on the rails for transferring drums and flasks. This building was particularly interesting to me as my Dad was involved in its design.

Trip was good day out with lunch at the end, was a good eye opener to see all the changes in Dounreay since I last worked there in 2002, in a short space of a couple of years there been some major changes and the site is become much more modernised/using some of the latest pioneering technology etc.

I found the site visit interesting and also shows the how far things have come in a few years, also lets you



see the problems that have to be faced and how they are solved. But in all I enjoyed the visit - shame we never had enough time to see more.

I thought it went excellently. I had never been round the working side of Dounreay so it was interesting to see what they were actually doing. PFR was an interesting place, visiting that after seeing the plans in the drawing office was a good way of understanding how it is being decommissioned. The engineers doing the tour were very helpful and managed to answer all our questions. The BFR plant was a good visit, it was interesting to



see how engineering designs and principles were being put into practice with the processing of the fuel from the dome. I appreciated the tour and thought it was well planned and interesting.

I really enjoyed the site visit and found it very interesting.

It was great to actually see the parts of plant rather than looking at pics. It was a great experience.

I enjoyed the visit as I realised that there are many different places on site to apply the knowledge gained this year. ■

Training Dates - June

A selection of courses running in June:

- 2 Windmills Follow-up
- 2 Counterbalance Forklift
- 2-6 Roads & Streetworks (closed)
- 3 Windmills Follow-up
- 3 Basic Radiation
- 3-5 Hazop Training
- 4 Second Nature Awareness
- 4-5 Windmills Workshop
- 4-5 Specification Writing (Pilot - closed)
- 5 Radiation Worker
- 6 Manual Handling
- 9 Rider Pallet Truck (Bagnal)
- 9 Confined Space Operator
- 10 Basic Radiation
- 13 Temporary Containment
- 16 Counter Balance forklift
- 15-16 IEE Seminar
- 16 PTW Reciever Refresher
- 17 Basic Radiation
- 23 Overhead Cranes
- 23 Confined Space Operator
- 24 Basic Radiation
- 24-25 I Hero
- 25 Overhead Cranes

Please contact the Dounreay Training Department for further details. ■

UNDERSEA INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE

The latest seven-day seabed investigation of the Dounreay effluent discharge systems was completed by local company Fathoms UK Ltd at the end of April.

Divers carried out the annual maintenance inspection of the new diffuser as well as continuing investigations into the integrity of the old diffuser and surrounding rock structure.

This investigation of the old diffuser was a continuation of the two-day survey carried out last year, when divers were unable to get access through one of the risers due to a lead plug. This time, sixteen separate dives took place to check whether other risers were clear and would give access to the old diffusion chamber.

The divers used dosimetry equipment to record information

which will be fed into the options for remediation of the redundant system. They also removed rock samples from areas of high radiation around the old diffuser which had been detected in previous dives. Some of the pollution on the rocks rubbed off onto a diver's suit and was detected by monitoring.

The divers unsuccessfully tried to remove the lead plug lodged in riser 1 using marine epoxy. As riser 1 has been confirmed as the only open riser, a further attempt to remove the lodged plug is being considered.

Phil Cartwright, contaminated land and particles manager said:

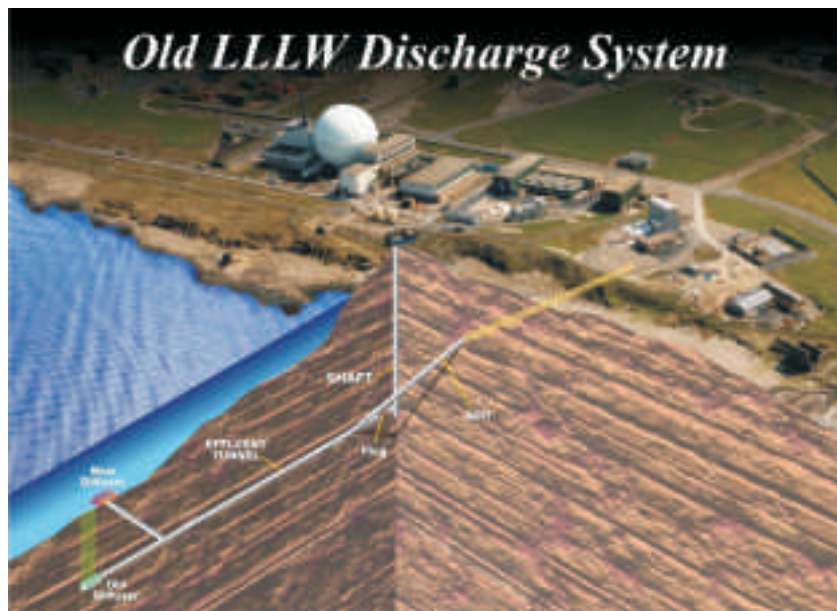
"The information we have gained from this survey is very important in improving our picture of the old diffuser system, and will help us assess the options for remediation.

"We have to be mindful of the high-activity particles on the seabed around the old diffuser. We cannot, at this stage, rule out the possibility of particles residing in the diffuser chamber, or its connecting pipework. However, early indications from the samples taken shows that the high levels of radioactivity detected in 2007 may be due to radioactive contamination in the rock structure, linked to the authorised discharge of liquid

waste, rather than actual particles.

"We will, however, continue to consider the possibility of particles being trapped in the rock mass above the diffuser chamber."

The information gained from this work will be reviewed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Dounreay Particles Advisory Group (DPAG), and Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE). ■



Callum Smith (Teal's skipper) throws anchor line to Dave Green (Fathoms diver) onboard George King's support boat, Anitra



On his return from a diver to the diffuser, the diver and dive team have a hand-over discussion and toolbox talk



Ryan Coats deep in thought

UNDERSEA INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE



Diver being prepared to go



Diver just back, assisted by Nobby and Phil (also Fathoms divers)



DSRL project supervisor Dave Hall discussing the days work with Fathoms diver Ryan Coats in *Teal's* wheelhouse



Willie Kennedy, DSRL and Fathoms operations manager Jim Cassidy, in *Teal's* wheelhouse

BETH GOES DOWN IN THE HISTORY BOOKS



Thurso High school pupil, Beth Henderson, is too young to be a part of the Dounreay story but she has contributed to preserving a little bit of the site's heritage for years to come.

When the site approached the Dounreay Stakeholder Group to consider how to commemorate Scotland's first nuclear chain reaction, the stakeholder group decided to hold a competition for high school pupils. They were asked to create a design which would depict the Caithness heritage.

From a number of entries received, stakeholder group members voted on the five best drawings and Beth's design was awarded first prize. Gemma Thompson and Ross Cowan, both pupils of Thurso High

School were runners-up.

Beth's design will now be etched on to a plaque and presented to Caithness Horizons as part of the Dounreay exhibition when the new visitor attraction opens its doors later this year.

Stakeholder group chairman, Alastair MacDonald said: "The entries we received were all very good and it was a hard job to whittle it down to the best five and even harder to agree on a winning design.

"We think Beth captured the spirit of the Caithness heritage in her design and she should be extremely proud that she has now become part of that heritage. Gemma and Ross' designs were also of a high standard and we were pleased to be able to present them with some Argos vouchers for their efforts." ■

NEW COMMERCIAL HEAD AT DOUNREAY



Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd has appointed Tom Cummings as its new head of commercial.

Tom, a commercial director with 22 years of experience in the engineering and construction industries, has been seconded from AMEC, a business partner of DSRL parent company UKAEA. He succeeds Monica Hoey.

He is experienced in the delivery of support services in a number of market sectors including nuclear, oil and gas, airports, power generation and defence in both the UK and international markets. He is familiar in the implementation of alternative contracting strategies for major

projects, including partnering, joint venturing, alliancing and incentivised contracting.

Coatbridge-born Tom's c.v. includes supporting AMEC in its diversification from heavy engineering into airports in the mid 1990s.

He supported AMEC's downstream oil and gas division in its entry to new markets, including China, with the award of the programme management contract for the US\$2 billion SECCO ethylene cracker complex in Caojing near Shanghai and the award of the Kuwaiti National Oil Company's five-year project management contract for the design and management of a US\$11 billion programme.

Tom was a member of the team that successfully negotiated and set up the business alliance of UKAEA, AMEC and CH2MHill alliance to pursue selected NDA tier 1 contracts. For the last 12 months Tom was assigned to the UKAEA's Harwell and Winfrith division as commercial director.

His personal interests include rugby, travel, food and wine

OUT AND ABOUT



Working together for Caithness

The Caithness Energy Alliance was formed last year to promote a range of skills to compete for work in the onshore and marine renewable energy market. It aims to market the advantages of the Caithness area, its renewable energy resources, industrial track record and the skills available.

Following the success at last year's All Energy conference, the CEA attended the 2008 All Energy conference in Aberdeen in May. DSRL contributed towards the funding of their attendance, by paying fifty percent of the costs of the exhibition stand and paying the costs of an ERI staff member to organise the logistics of CEA's attendance.

Caithness Conference 2008

The NDA, DSRL and other external organisations have pledged to support the second Caithness Conference, to be held on 29th September. First Minister Alex Salmond has also indicated that he will attend. ■



Dounreay Director Simon Middle at the 2007 Caithness Conference



FOUR GENERATIONS OF MACLEAN WORK AT DOUNREAY

When Kenneth Maclean and his son Billy got jobs on a military airfield at Dounreay during World War Two, neither could have imagined the remarkable family association with the site they started.

They returned a decade later to work on the construction of an experimental nuclear station, setting in motion an amazing 130 years of service by the same family spanning four generations.

The latest Maclean to find work at Dounreay is builder Iain (24).

And the supervisor on the construction site where Iain now works is none other than another Maclean – his dad Nicol.

Great grandad Kenneth was a mechanic from the Fisherbiggins area of Thurso when the Royal Navy needed someone to look after the lights of HMS Tern, the World War Two aerodrome at Dounreay.

Kenneth returned to work at Wilson's Garage in Thurso when the war finished but went back to Dounreay in 1956 to help the UK Atomic Energy Authority build its experimental reactor. He maintained the diesel generators used by Motherwell Bridge during construction of the sphere, retiring a couple of years later.

Kenneth's sons Billy and Ken both worked at Dounreay. Billy, a fitter who served his time at the Dounreay aerodrome between 1943 and 1945, spent 32 years with UKAEA, retiring in 1990. Ken started at Dounreay in 1956 on construction of the Dounreay

Fast Reactor. He retired from the building works department in 1983.

The third generation of Macleans to find work at Dounreay were Ken's sons Kenny, who started in 1970, and Nicol who joined in 1974.

Kenny and Nicol still work at Dounreay. Now they have been joined by Nicol's son Iain.

Nicol (51) started as an apprentice joiner with sub-contractor A & D Sutherland and is now a project supervisor with Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd on the construction of a £40 million project to manage waste from decommissioning the Dounreay Fast Reactor. Son Iain (24) is a bricklayer with sub-contractor KDS on the same job.

The family connection doesn't stop there. Nicol's wife Sandra has worked at Dounreay since 1973.

"They called me an atom baby when I was born in 1957 – little did they know how true that would be," laughed Nicol.

"There's 16 years of work left here until it's finished and I've got nine to go until I retire. It would be nice to think Iain could see it through to completion. But I doubt if my great grand-parents could have foreseen what they started in the 1940s and 1950s, so who knows how it will end." ■

Nicol Maclean and son Iain



BAVARIAN MOTOR WORKS AT DOUNREAY

BMW used Dounreay's offsite west car park as their test-track when they unveiled their new 4x4, the X6, to the motoring press. We brought one of the cars onto site to photograph it against the iconic back drop of DFR. BMW's PR manager, Duncan Forrester, got a brief tour of the breeder fuel building, thanks to Mark Aitken. Duncan was amazed by it – he was expecting bakelite switches! ■



BUSINESS START UP : MARKET RESEARCH

When you are starting your own business, it is essential to carry out market research. It can be the most effective way to discover whether your products or services are really needed.

What do you need to know?

Market research will answer questions like:

- **Who are your potential customers?**
 - If you are starting up a lawn mowing service, you might target busy people or the elderly.
- **How much or how often will they buy from you?**
 - A fast food outlet will predict the amount of burgers or pizzas they expect to sell daily.
- **When will they buy?**
 - A shop selling toys will have times of the year, such as Christmas, when sales will peak.
- **Where will they buy?**
 - Will your targeted customers prefer to buy face to face or through the internet?
- **Why will they choose your product or service?**
 - What makes your product or service stand out from all your competitors?

Carrying out market research

Your market research should consist of more than asking the opinion of your family and friends. To avoid getting misleading results, you need to obtain objective views from a cross-section of the market you are targeting.

Be clear about what you want to find out, and make sure that your questions can be clearly understood. Try to frame your questions so that they cannot be answered merely with a 'yes' or a 'no', as you will get more information that way.

Cutting the cost of research

There is a lot of data on the internet which is freely available. Try:

- internet search engines like Yahoo or Google – but check that the data is recent.
- Government databases can provide statistics – visit www.statistics.gov.uk
- trade associations often collect data from their members – visit www.taforum.org to find the appropriate association.

You can also buy market research – visit www.marketresearch.com, a searchable database of worldwide reports.

Checking out the competition

Trying your competitors products and services is a good way of seeing what's on the market, and the competition you will face. Can you improve on what



Keith Muir

they offer? If you can, you will give yourself an advantage.

NEED ADVICE?

HIE, Caithness and Sutherland have an office on site. Contact Keith Muir on 805224 or by email – keith.muir@hient.co.uk to make an appointment to see him. ■

Common Mistakes

- Failing to do any market research.
- Not following up your original market research with another survey, to see whether things have changed.
- Asking vague questions which don't give you any information.
- Cutting costs by only asking the opinions of friends and family.
- Interpreting the results wrongly.
- Taking negative comments personally.



WORKERS GIVE BLOOD

None of us come to work expecting to save a life.

But for more than 200 workers, their gift of blood will be doing just that.

They gave up an hour of time to allow the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service to take much-needed supplies.

A total of 180 units was collected by the service during its latest appeal at Dounreay.

Part of the D8550 training block was converted to a temporary

blood donation centre.

Some 210 workers gave up 180 units of blood over two days.

Their donations will now be used to help save the lives of Scots in desperate need of blood transfusions.

Just three teaspoons of donated blood can save the life of a premature baby, while a serious road accident can require up to 40 pints.

Blood stocks across Scotland have fallen recently and there is an urgent need for new donors.

Dounreay's occupational health department helps the transfusion service set up a temporary donation centre three times a year.

"Giving up less than an hour of your time can mean the difference between life and death for someone else," said occupational health manager Kirsty McIntosh.

For more information about donating blood, log onto www.scotblood.co.uk, or telephone 0845 90 90 999. ■



Elaine Cameron, whose life was saved by 36 pints of blood in 2005, beside regular donor Jim McCafferty

These photos were taken by **Gemma Macdonald** on her recent visit to Hong Kong. Amazing that such a cosmopolitan city is still using bamboo technology. ■



Ian Robertson (Ritchies) and **George Groat** (DSRL) receive the SHE team award trophy and a cheque for £1,000 from site boss **Simon Middlemas**. The shaft isolation project were chosen as the winners for their positive attitude to reducing waste, as well as the sustained and pro-active improvements over the life of the project. ■



UNOR OF THE MONTH

The UNOR of the Month for May was raised by **Isobel Campbell** (JCL), who noticed an overhead ceiling tile was loose while responding to a customer at the counter in D1302. The tile was unsafe and could have caused injury if it had fallen onto someone.

Isobel made sure that no one stood directly underneath the tile, and alerted her colleagues to the danger. She reported it to the helpdesk and raised the UNOR.

Isobel received a £50 gift voucher for her vigilance. ■

Dounreay Safety Challenge

Can you meet the target for

24

Days?

(As of 22/05/08)

Have your say

“How do you feel about being part of a “spin off” business?”

This month we are focusing on the environmental laboratories, who are going through the process of offsite relocation by 2012.

The environmental, bioassay & asbestos labs are situated in D1310/D9995. They analyse samples taken from marine animals, vegetation, water, soil and biological samples from the workforce. They ensure that the site complies with our legal obligations to SEPA & the HSE. The labs also carry out analysis for the Land Remediation and Particles department as well as any asbestos sampling and analysis in support of the site decommissioning.



Leanne Munro

It's an exciting and challenging project to be part of, and hopefully we could spin off into non-nuclear business.



Charlie Stewart

An off site lab is a very necessary part of keeping scientific careers open and available for youngsters in the county.



Andrew Clarke

My main concern is having enough sufficiently knowledgeable staff to run a business



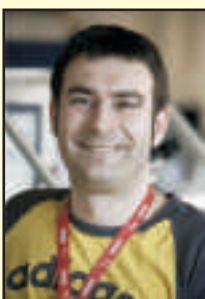
Sophia Nestor (on work experience)

I am really enjoying my work experience and would like to work in the labs



Isobel Stronach

It would be a big culture change, but everyone will be leaving Dounreay eventually. The biggest issue will be equipment and staffing to continue working.



Stix

It would definitely be a good thing for us and for the community. The nearest asbestos laboratory is in Aberdeen, so we could fill a gap.

Congratulations....

.....to Calum and Aileen Swanson on the birth of their baby girl on 13th May. She weighed in at 8lb 2oz. Mother and daughter both well. ■

National Learning at Work Day

See next month's edition for a full report of National Learning at Work Day on May 22

Dounreay News is edited by: Sue Thompson, Dounreay Communications

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UPDATING OUR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

DSRL is changing the way that news and information is communicated across the site.

Unit and project managers will continue to be responsible for communication with their own staff.

But information relevant to the whole site will now appear in a new rolling news window of the intranet that replaces the team brief.

It means news and information that previously was published once a week in the team brief will now appear on-line instantly.

Once a week, the headlines will be summarised in a broadcast message to staff with hyperlinks to each item.

Publishing news and information instantly on the intranet should reduce the number of broadcast messages issued to the whole site.

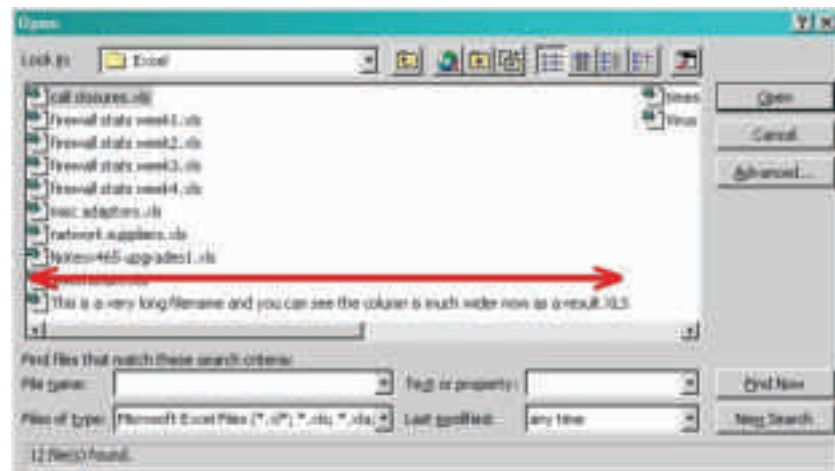
In future, only those messages that everyone needs to know about immediately should be broadcast this way.

The changes mirror those that have happened with the outside world.

The fortnightly Dounreay Bulletin has disappeared, with news and information appearing instantly in the “latest news” section of the dounreay.com website. Once a week, an email summary of these headlines is issued to subscribers. ■

SAVING GRACE

Have you ever spent hours working on a file, only to have something happen to the PC resulting in the loss of all your work? It can be incredibly frustrating, but is largely avoidable using a few tips. Whenever you start work on a document, save it straightaway!! This way the autosave feature will work properly and will mean you have an up to date copy should anything happen. The quickest way to do this is to press CTRL and S together. You will then be asked for a filename and a destination. You can always tell whether or not a file has been saved by looking in the top-left corner of the screen. You will see the name of the program being used AND the name of the current file.



Remember to be as descriptive as you possibly can with your filenames but also be aware of one consideration.

If you have exceptionally long filenames, the width of the columns in your save or open dialog box will be as wide as the longest filename. This may make finding files harder. ■