

RECORD PERFORMANCES SAFETY, HYGIENE, ENVIRONMENT & PRODUCTION

The 1991/92 financial year closed on June 30th with a flourish. The furnace produced a record monthly production of 7,836 tonnes to raise the ISF zinc production for the year to a record 84,026 tonnes.

Refined zinc, lead bullion, cadmium, sulphuric acid were all at record levels and all production, including copper sulphate, was above Plan.

Mid-year, we set ourselves a target of producing 84,000 tonnes ISF zinc without exceeding last year's costs as part of our effort to ease our poor financial performance. The fact that we achieved this twin target is a measure of everyone's grit and determination.

But the most important feature is that record production levels were achieved with record levels of safety, hygiene and environmental performance.

There were 13 Lost Time Accidents (frequency rate 11) during the year, compared with the previous best of 23 (frequency rate 19). Also, on 7 July we passed our previous best run of 82 days without a Lost Time Incident.

There was an average of 1 person with lead in blood greater than 55µg/dl compared with the previous best of 23 people above this figure. We have now lowered our counselling level to 50µg/dl.

Lead levels at all community monitoring stations are currently below NHMRC goals of 1.5µg/cubic metre and are at record low levels. Metal discharges in effluent to Cockle Creek are 33% lower than the previous best recorded.

This confirms that SAFE production gives BEST production. It should also provide assurance that higher production efficiencies result in lower emission levels to the environment.

This excellent performance has been brought about by a process of continuous improvement in all facets of our operation, largely through the ideas generated by our improvement teams

and implemented with a tonne of goodwill and dedication by everyone.

We now have approvals in from Lake Macquarie City Council to raise production to 90,000 tonnes ISF zinc per annum after the August '93 Campaign Shutdown. In order to provide breathing space between ourselves and our neighbours we are developing a buffer zone in Boolaroo, and to help allay concerns of the community we will soon present an Environmental Impact Statement on the effect of planned increases in production levels.

So, we are now a long way down the track in our long term objective of establishing an operation that is profitable and secure but also environmentally acceptable.

This past year's record performance gives us all confidence that we have a plant worth investing in.

Alan Roberts,
General Manager.



• Our ducks, kindly brought onto site by Terry Gilfillan, enjoy a swim in the new pond south of the ISF.