

# A S I N T E R

by Senior Sustaining Metallurgist, Glenn Poynter

Each person who works at Sulphide has an important role to play in ensuring the plant's future. Glenn Poynter provided a glimpse into a few of the Sinter Plant jobs which are vital to producing the product sinter - the main raw feed for the blast furnace.

## A CHANGE IN CHARGE

At the time of preparation of this article, a management reorganisation was announced and Leigh Neilson would become responsible for the management of a newly-formed Technical Projects Department.

Having been Manager Smelting since February 1989, Leigh said of the change 'During the past six years there have been major changes to the operation and the people involved. These changes have delivered significant improvements in safety, health and productivity. Everyone in the department has been affected and I am particularly appreciative of their efforts and cooperation.'

'There are too many specific things to mention,' he said 'everyone has participated, often under difficult circumstances, and I just want to simply say "thank you" to a very fine group of people.'



Leigh Neilson former Manager Smelting and currently, Manager Technical Projects is also the site steward for the introduction of the International Safety Rating System (ISRS).



Proportioning Plant Operator, Wayne Holstein activates the bin blaster.

## Proportioning Plant Operator

It is in the Proportioning Plant that the input of zinc and lead concentrates, limesand and residues are regulated to the Sinter Plant. This area is the starting point for the controlled conversion of raw materials to finished product and the rate through the Proportioning Plant is essentially the rate of new materials input to the site. The Proportioning Plant Operator must maintain sufficient levels of feed in the ten bins to ensure a steady supply to the sintering process. Other duties of the position include:

- maintaining a steady flow of materials from the bins, by clearing blockages;
- checking and maintaining plant equipment;
- accurately reporting material movements, bin levels and stock levels;
- carrying out "check weights" as required; and
- maintaining a high standard of plant housekeeping.

# NEW

In what is seen as an advance in safety practices, Sulphide is currently implementing the International Safety Rating System (ISRS). The ISRS will compliment the National Safety Council of Australia's (NSCA) Five Star System that is currently used at Sulphide.

Developed and refined in America over the past fifty years, the system is licensed to the Norwegian company Det Norske Veritas (DNV) in Australia. Numerous large organisations are already using the ISRS, including BHP Petroleum, Sydney Electricity, Prospect Electricity, Alcan and Ok Tedi Mine. Under the guidance of Graham Hawes, Manager Environmental Services at Pasma Mining - Rosebery, the system is being implemented Pasma-wide. The new system is a response to Pasma's commitment to minimising loss, hazards and injuries in the workplace.