

for Peak Downs.
 "Cleaner separation has been shown by all pilot rigs, accompanied by good ash reduction and good overall recoveries. The various air injection arrangements provide more air than conventional cells, and rinsing water on the froth gives a cleaner froth."

Jan said both the Jameson cell and the Microcel column allow longer time for separation and a better split for coals like Peak Downs. This resulted in better recoveries of product coal.

Next phase

"The next phase in our research is to scale up to full size to see if we can reproduce these promising early results in an operating situation."

"We're currently seeking funds within the company's research program, and, if successful, we'll move towards full plant installation here at Peak Downs in 1995."

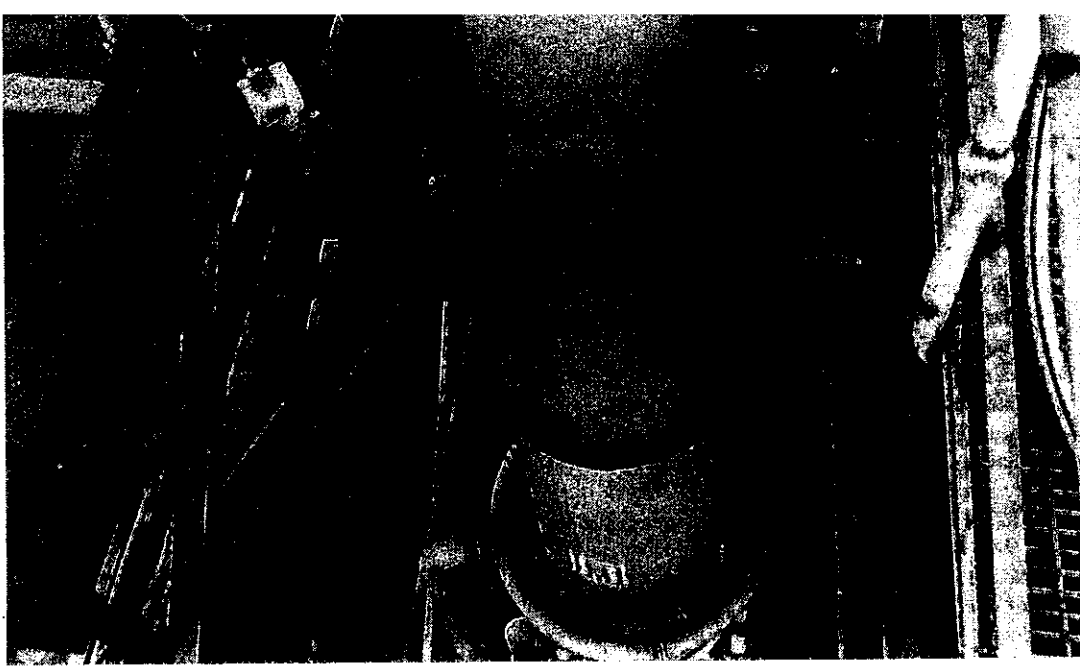
"We'll examine the separation achievable, operating parameters, effect on product quality, additional dewatering required, performance over a range of coal types, and overall benefits," he said.

Cross-functional group

The company has formed a cross-functional group of operators from interested plants and Brisbane Office. Dr Chris Clarkson, an expert on research programs, is acting as mentor.

"It's something which is driven by operating sites with Brisbane fostering and supporting research. Regular meetings ensure that we're all kept up to date."

(RIGHT) Microcel column pilot unit in place at the Riverside preparation plant.



Goonyella/Riverside blasts new Australian, maybe world, record

Goonyella/Riverside's blast crew are claiming a new Australian and possible world record following an exceptional performance in June.

Blasting supervisor Des Morris said crew members Jim Alexander, Bob Barron, Gavin Glinster, Trevor Williams, Gary Davey and Darren Fredericks had smashed the Australian ANFO loading record.

"On 20 June, the crew loaded 522 tonnes of ANFO explosive in nine hours, and had it loaded and fired in 10 hours."

Des said activity centred on Ramp 1 North, for a throw blast of one million tonnes of overburden.

ICI supplied the ANFO prill, and R&H Transport hauled it in.

"The previous best was 432 tonnes in the Hunter Valley with four trucks - we did it with two."

"We believe it's also a possible world record."

Des said the crew was forced to have a beer to celebrate their achievement.

"The crew has been together for a while, and this resulted in excellent teamwork."

"We were very fortunate to have such excellent back-up from our contractors, and everyone involved in the record is delighted to have set a standard for other mines to match."

ABOVE: John Molloy, Trevor Williams, Jim Alexander, Ken (Cowboy) Lucas.

Cape York and Cape Palmerston, Fraser Island and many national parks. "My wife Jenny, and children Kylie (6) and Ryan (4) enjoy camping trips," he told *Newsline*.

"We have a good set-up, with camping fridge, a marquee, solar power equipment and dual battery system on the vehicle."

"It makes camping a little more comfortable."

Originally from the Mackay/Sarina district, Jon completed his electrical apprenticeship at Plane Creek sugar mill, and worked in construction at the distillery at Sarina.

"I joined Utah at Blackwater in 1983 as a maintenance, then as an electrician."

"I was the only shift electrician at the time, covering the whole mine so the work really kept me on the hop."

He was appointed electrical foreman in 1987, and held that position until his transfer.

"I worked with a lot of good people and had a lot of good friends at Blackwater - I learned a lot from them."

"However, the job at Goonyella/Riverside was a great opportunity and I decided to make the change."

Jon said most of his work at present centres on the electrical side of things, but he expects this to broaden out to other maintenance activities as he settles in.



Riverside reject pile under rehabilitation

Contracts have been awarded on a \$1 million project to rehabilitate a large sector of the Riverside reject pile.

Tim Crossley, environmental co-ordinator at Goonyella/Riverside, said work on the first stage, covering approximately two-thirds of the reject pile, was being undertaken by contractors.

"In the first stage, we're regrading a section of the western edge to 15 degrees from the current angle of repose."

"Once regrading is completed, contractors will cap 40 ha with a capping material to a depth of half a metre."

"Clay capping is being extracted from an area surrounding the Riverside tailings dam, which will eventually be filled with tailings as the level rises. This will allow us to use a local resource without disturbing additional ground."

He explained that the capping is a soil-like medium which provides a growth medium for vegetation establishment.

"It acts to minimise the amount of water which can penetrate the dump. This limits the potential for acid and saline leachates to seep from the base of the dump."

In conjunction with stabilising work, a wetland filter system is being developed at the base of the dump to assist in removing free metal ions.

"World-wide research has proven that swamps with vegetation poll water, improving water quality," he said.

Tim said when the capping is in place, contractors would build up a network of contour banks and rock drains to prevent erosion of the dump.

"The whole area will be topsoiled to a depth of 0.2 metre and seeded with a grass/tree/shrub mix."

"Grasses could include buffel, Rhodes grass, legumes, and red Natal grass. Trees under consideration include sally wattle, acacia rhodoxylon, acacia leio calyx, and lemon scented gum."

To minimise surface disturbance topsoil would be recovered from an area ahead of the dump face of the reject stockpile.



ocean on his doorstep. He describes himself as a keen reader. "I might have to leave the house for weekends on the coast,"

er, there should be time for a major interest - reading.

Rolf never lets a chance go 'buy'

