

## ZIP for Partners

The first ZIP for Partners program was run on 24 October and attracted 18 attendees.

Superintendent Safety Systems, Allison Hutton said the ZIP for Partners program came out of a suggestion from the WHIZ Day in 2010.

“The feedback we got from partners after the WHIZ Day presentations was that the program should be extended. The GPS ZIP Implementation Team and Peter Kennedy from Sentis agreed and also felt that this would be a good way to spread the ZIP message about well being,” Allison said.

Peter Kennedy said the material was written especially for GPS partners focusing on the brain and well being.

The program was open to partners of all NRG employees and ZIP-trained contractors. The three session day was well attended with fellow Sentis presenter Charlotte Jameson commenting that there was an amazing dynamic evident amongst those who attended.

Attendee Annette Felix felt the program provided skills that could be use in everyday life while Donna Dickfos agreed saying the program was rewarding in that it was explained in simple terms and easy to understand.



*Sentis presenter Charlotte Jameson chats with some of the ladies who attended the ZIP training.*

## Record Numbers Enjoy Cania Gorge

The picture perfect weather ensured a record rollup for the fourth annual Rec Club trip to Cania Gorge with 86 people enjoying a relaxing weekend away.

While some chose to set up tents and camper trailers, others preferred the comforts of the air conditioned cabins. It was



*Mick and Phil ensured the Cania Gorge weekend was a great success.*

great to see a lot of new faces as well as regulars taking time out to enjoy the many recreational activities on offer.

The scenic rainforest walks to Dripping Rock and the Bloodwood Caves proved popular with members as was the skiing and fishing on the dam. Some even found time to enjoy a round of nine holes on the “Royal Pines” golf course.

Towards the end of the day members visited the bird watching area where the king parrots, cockatoos and galahs were soon eating out of their hands. Then it was off to the wine tasting hour with a few members keen to check out the variety of red and white wines on offer.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend was a late night karaoke session headed by our very own resident guitarist Martin Thomas, along with a small but vocal group of revellers who managed to belt out a succession of party tunes well into the morning.

The weekend however would not have been a success without the hard work and dedication from our small band of Rec Club cooks who served up a variety of delicious meals including a fantastic Saturday night roast of pork, lamb and beef. A big thank you to Grant Sutherland, Phil Hayne, Mick Chadwick and the many others who pitched in to ensure everyone had a fantastic weekend. (More photos page 4).

# From Shoey's Desk

## Powering Queensland

Dear Folks

With the announcement of plans to build a gas fire power station at Aldoga there has been a lot of discussion around GPS about what effect this may have on us. So, let me take a minute to look at this issue. As most of you know, Queensland is part of the National Electricity Market (NEM) which includes Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The NEM is managed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

Each year AEMO issues a very detailed report on the NEM and included in that is an assessment of the supply and demand for electricity in various parts of the Market. In the 2010 AEMO report they gave an assessment of the demand/supply balance for Queensland region of the NEM out until 2019/20. The AEMO assessment is indicating a projected lack of capacity as early as 2013/14 (refer Figure 1).

The situation highlighted by AEMO has coincided with the announcement of the possible two new gas fired power generation plants at Blackstone near the existing Stanwell Corp. Swanbank 'E' Power Station and at the station at Aldoga.

It is proposed to fire the two new plants on Coal Seam Gas. We have seen in Queensland over the past few years a growth in Gas-Fired Electricity Generation based upon Coal Seam Gas. Now the interesting thing is that the rapid growth of the Coal Seam Gas Industry in Queensland is already bringing significant pressures on the existing electricity infrastructure with estimates of a very high load growth in the next five years. When this is considered against the background of the prices currently being paid for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG - the product of Coal Seam Gas) in the key Asian markets it is arguable that the potential medium to long term cost of gas for electricity generation in Queensland may be high. This may be offset to some extent by the rapid increase in supply of gas.

This situation may in the medium to long term be made worse by the ongoing growth in the demand for electricity in Queensland from

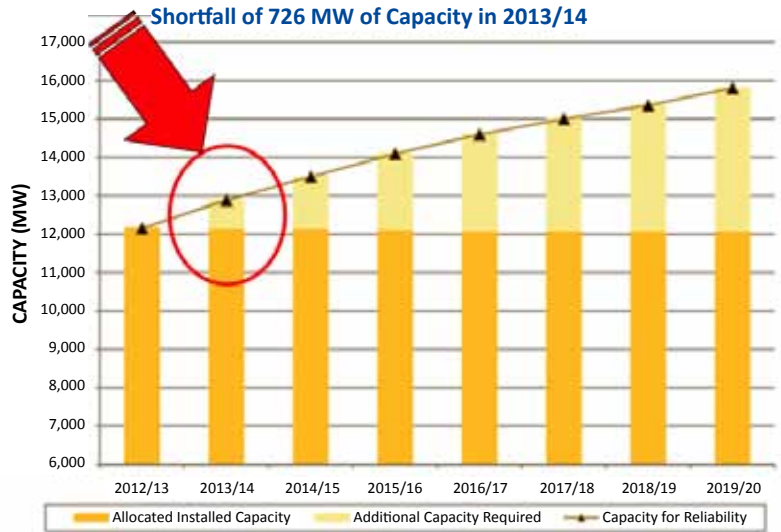


Figure 1 – National Electricity Market, Queensland Region 2010 Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) Supply/Demand Assessment (Medium Economic Growth - Summer Outlook)

increased population and continued mining industry growth. Thus, existing coal fired plants such as GPS may well find our base-load capability being of growing importance.

Whatever way things go, I have the view that there is an important future for GPS. Now, that is not to say we may not have our challenges. It certainly will be interesting.

### GPS – Our Future

Regards  
SHOEY  
Glenn Schumacher  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Raising Awareness of Eye Care

GPS employees had the opportunity to learn about common eye conditions and eye care following a presentation from Peter Choc, an optometrist with local company, Gladstone Vision.

During his one hour presentation Peter talked about common eye problems such as short sightedness, cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration and the effects of diabetes on the eyes.

To help maintain good "Visual Hygiene" Peter suggested employees should try to maintain good posture, read in good lighting, take regular breaks when using a computer and hold reading a sensible distance away.

Peter said that it was important for people to have their eyes tested if they had problems with their vision, were over 40 or had a family history of eye problems.

An initiative of the wellness committee the session was well received by the employees attending who appreciated the practical advice to help improve their awareness of eye care.



Peter Choc was happy to discuss eye health care with Narelle Greenhalgh and Steve Felix.

## Farewell Joel

After 20 years in Gladstone, former Production Manager Joel Otley has decided to move to the “big smoke” of Brisbane.

Joel has taken up a new role as Principle Adviser Power for Rio Tinto in their Albert Street office.

“Essentially the role performs the function of Joint Venture Manager and has a more commercial focus than my current role.”

“I expect to be involved in a lot of communication between NRG and the Joint Venture participants in areas such as annual planning and budgets as well as issues such as coal procurement,” Joel explained.

“With new contracts being up for renegotiation and coal supply having been an ongoing issue in the past couple of years, I am keenly looking forward to being involved,” he said.

Joel will not be entirely lost to GPS as he expects to attend the quarterly review meetings and coal and QR meetings held at the Power Station.

While Joel and his wife Ruth and two children were understandably excited about the move Joel said he would miss working with the senior management team, the production team and the many other employees he had come to know during his time at GPS.

“Being a small organisation I’ve also appreciated being able to step outside the role on a number of occasions to get involved in EBA negotiations, Fitness for Duty discussions, coal recovery and visiting NRG Energy Inc sites in the states. They have all been fantastic opportunities which have allowed me to broaden my skills base,” Joel said.

Prior to joining GPS in 2005, Joel had spent 12 years at QAL and two years on secondment at the Vaudreuil Alumina Refinery in Quebec, Canada. While at QAL Joel formed a close association with former NRG Maintenance Manager, Brian Corr who Joel says has been a great mentor throughout his career.

“I am going to miss getting out on the plant but I feel it is the right time for me to leave with Gladstone up for major changes over the next few years. I am sure the person who takes over my role will do a fantastic job,” Joel said.



Joel has moved to Brisbane to take up a new role with Rio Tinto.

## New Fire Truck Arrives

You may have seen a large amount of red outside the fire station recently with a shiny new fire truck parked outside.

It’s an exciting new chapter for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) with the new truck replacing the existing Ford F150 which has served the team faithfully since the early days of the station. While it is sad to retire the old fire truck, it had reached end of life and corrosion issues and spare parts were becoming problems.

The new fire appliance is actually a second hand one in excellent condition, sourced by Graham Long, Rod Brown and Allison Hutton.

The ERT were appreciative of the support from the Major Projects Team in obtaining the new appliance.

With the arrival of the new fire truck the ERT members are now obtaining their medium rigid licenses which allow them to drive the new vehicle.

Long term ERT member Andrew Sibley who was responsible for commissioning the new truck said the truck would be a valuable asset to the team.

“With up-to-date features like pump and roll available on the truck, it really improves our fire fighting capability,” Andrew said.



The new fire truck arrives at the power station.



Andrew Sibley and Rod Brown are proud to show off the new fire truck.

## Rec Club Cania Gorge



## Bike-n-Brekky Day a Success

Twenty five employees took part in this year's Bike-n-Brekky Day on 12 October.

Wellness Committee Chairman Rob Wemyss said while the numbers were slightly down on last year it was great to

see employees taking up the challenge to ride their bike to work.

A regular weekend rider with the family, this was the first time Rob had ridden to work himself.

"I live on the other side of Calliope so the hour and a half ride before work was a great way start the day," Rob said.

Employees who rode to work were rewarded with a healthy breakfast when they arrived on site. As an added bonus employees had the opportunity to win a \$30 voucher from BCF. Congratulations to Alfie Little and Grant Sutherland who were the lucky winners of the vouchers.

"This year is the eighth year the Wellness Committee has supported the Ride to Work and it is a great way to promote cycling, healthy living and fitness in the community," Rob added.

The Ride to Work promotion is an annual national event which encourages employees to feel good and have fun by riding to work.



Employees enjoy a hearty breakfast on Bike-n-Brekky Day.

# Fun and Frivolity at 25 Year Dinner



This year's 25 year dinner held at the Grand Hotel on Saturday 8 October was another great success with 107 people attending.

Gold Coast based entertainer Matt Hollywood once again wowed the audience with his comedy routines, illusions, card tricks and interaction with audience members.

New 25 year inductee Greg McDiarmid and his wife Kay were excited to be part of the night and pleased with the entertainment on offer.

"We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the entertainment was first class. We also enjoyed being able to catch up with people whom we hadn't seen for a while," Greg said.

Fellow inductee Steve Lewis and his wife Hayley echoed Greg's comments adding that "It was great to catch up with the retired members of the club especially those whom we had spent a lot of time with during their working career."

Recently retired First Aid Officer, Doug Thomas was the star "volunteer" of the night and happy to take part in an entertaining routine that had the audience in stitches.

As well as Greg and Stephen, the other new members this year were Paul Andrewartha and Graham Wright.

Special thanks to the organising committee of Sandy Hunt, Lynda Casey, Dave Greinke, Gary Macnamara, George Bennetts and Tony Frazer.



## Earthwatch Experience an Exciting Time for Kelvin

*Station Electrical technician Kelvin Bebindorf recently returned from his 10 day Earthwatch Program at the Charles Darwin Reserve in the south west Botanical Province of Western Australia. Kelvin was keen to share some of the highlights of his trip.*

On 6 October I began my Earthwatch Scholarship Program at the Charles Darwin Reserve in southern Western Australia. Following a six hour trip to Perth we headed to the Reserve which was a four hour trip by four wheel drive.

The area is internationally recognised for its biodiversity and one which requires urgent conservation. The region covers only 4% of Australia but has 52% of the nation's rare and threatened plant species.

Our expedition was led by Angela (Member of Conservation Australia who manages



*Kelvin unlocks one of the traps used for the biodiversity surveys.*

the reserve) with assistance from Cass, an Earthwatch representative and Joe a scientist with Edith Cowan University. There were eight volunteers on the trip, three from America, one from Italy and the rest from Australia. One of our American volunteers, a 79 year old lady had 45 Earthwatch expeditions under her belt so there was no shortage of experience amongst the group.

We were encouraged to participate in the biodiversity surveys which involved opening up 144 pitfall traps and 72 funnel traps which capture animals in a safe humane way. Initially we were taught how to handle the animals and once you got used to them they were quite easy to handle. It's also a good way of taking away your fear of animals.

Our main focus was on reptiles and mammals and over the week long program we captured 214 animals from 23 species including a variety of skinks, dunnarts, geckos, dragons, frogs and lizards.

Once captured all the animals were then weighed, measured, marked and released at the point of capture. The purpose of the research was to evaluate whether these animals have suffered a significant decline in numbers as a result of the introduction of predators such as foxes and cats. Currently a baiting program is in place for the foxes so the aim was to determine whether decreasing fox populations had produced any change in the prey species. It is expected that the project, which began in 2010, will be long term project.

Being part of the project was something out of the ordinary for me and it gave me a special appreciation of the scientists involved in this work. Also being able to work with such professionals was a positive experience and I was pleased that I was able to contribute to the program. Working with people from different backgrounds also added to the experience and we all enjoyed ourselves in the process.

I would recommend the Earthwatch program to anyone as it opens up your mind to a whole new world. The world of nature is completely different to ours and I am thankful to NRG for allowing me to participate.



*Kelvin had no trouble getting used to handling the various reptiles and mammals.*

## Ladies Enjoy Pink Ribbon Breakfast

Sixteen ladies from GPS enjoyed a hearty breakfast at the Gladstone Golf Club on Friday 14 October to raise funds for the Cancer Council of Queensland.



After a sumptuous meal of bacon and eggs members spent up big on raffle tickets and won several prizes for the table.

Plant services employees Evie Higgins' sister-in-law Jenny Pimm kindly donated 25 breast awareness brooches which were given to the NRG ladies to wear on the morning.

Cancer Council Volunteer Cheryl Jackson was pleased with the success of the breakfast.

"We had about 130 people come along and our guest speaker this year was Tracy Winter from QGC who spoke about the development of the gas plant in Gladstone."

"The annual breakfast raised about \$3,500 which will be spent on breast cancer research," Cheryl said.

*Sixteen ladies from GPS enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast at the Golf Club to raise money for Pink Ribbon Day.*

# New Trainees take up the Challenge

Gladstone Power Station's latest trainee operators Ray Waghorn, Glenn Noy, Brodie Walters and Ken Wogandt have settled in well to their new roles and are looking forward to long careers in the operations area.

As the 'elder statesman' of the group Ray Waghorn could be expected to know pretty much all there is to know about the plant but even he admits there is much to learn.

"Having worked in maintenance for over 33 years I have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the operations side of the plant. There is a lot of underpinning knowledge we all have to learn and it's been refreshing having to go back on a lot of things I learnt early in my apprenticeship," Ray said.

Ray expects the move into operations will have added benefits for his family's home life.

"I wanted a lifestyle change and being a shift operator means I will be working less overtime and have a better work/life balance," he said.

As a former NRG mechanical apprentice Glenn Noy can expect his boiler plant knowledge will be in high demand once the group complete the initial modules in electrical theory.

'After 11 years as a fitter I felt it was time to change direction and expand my knowledge of steam generation. The course work has been very interesting and everyone pitches in to help each other out. It has been great to be able to draw upon the knowledge of the other trainees in the group," Glenn said.

After having worked for five years in temporary roles at GPS Ken Wogandt is excited about the prospect of moving into an operations role down the track.

"I am keen to develop my skills and looking forward to getting as much out of the traineeship as I can. Once we get through the theoretical knowledge I am keen to spend time on the simulator and working with the teams on shift," Ken said.

A relative newcomer to GPS, Brodie Walters completed his apprenticeship at the Isis Central Sugar Mill near Bundaberg.

Looking for a change of scenery Brodie moved to Gladstone just last year with a view to getting a job in power generation.

"I've always been interested in the production side and the 12 hour shift roster is something that appeals to me," Brodie said.

After their initial training the four trainees will spend time on the simulator and then move into the production teams where they will gain valuable practical experience. This will then allow them to obtain their Advanced Boiler and Open Turbine Operation Certificates as well as a Certificate 4 in Power Generation.



*Brodie, Ken, Ray and Glenn are keen to join the production team.*

## Service Register – November 2011

The NRG Service Register recognises employees who have completed 10 years service or more in the Queensland electricity industry and who have been employed at GPS since the Sale of the Station (31/3/94). This register is for employees whose anniversary falls during the month of November.

- 34 years Wayne Franks
- 33 years Michael Palmer, Trevor Pearce
- 32 years Tony Harris
- 31 years Graham Sparrow, Ivan Robinson, David Greinke
- 30 years Darryl Kropp
- 27 years Gary Underdown, John Deno
- 18 years Cameron Poole
- 16 years Pauline Ferricks

## New Plant Protection Team on Board

You may have been wondering who are the new faces, uniforms and vehicle at the Gatehouse.

This is a change we have implemented after our recent tender for Plant Protection Services for our site. The group are no longer referred to as Security but as Officers in the Plant Protection Team.

Corporate Protection Australia (CPA) won the tender for Plant Protection Services and

took over control of the Gatehouse and site from 30 September 2011.

The new team has some new faces as well as some old familiar faces. There will be a bigger focus on training from NRG and CPA for the Officers to ensure there is a high standard of protection for the people and plant at GPS.

Please make the new team feel welcome.  
Brad Greer



*Some members of the new Plant Protection Team are Ashley, Aidan, Lilly and Steph.*

## John Sets Course Record in Nullabor Classic



John accepts his prize for achieving the lowest gross score.

The thought of travelling 9,000 kms to play a game of golf might seem a little crazy to most people but for Training Development Specialist, John Marxsen it was an opportunity to enjoy a holiday of a lifetime.

The Chasing the Sun Golf Festival which John enjoyed is a week of fun, sightseeing

and golf as you drive along one of Australia's greatest roads, the Eyre Highway.

When John first heard about the unusual golf tournament, which is the main focus of the festival, he immediately signed up to becoming an inaugural member of the Nullabor Links Golf Club.

For the uninitiated, the club isn't actually a club but a 1400 km stretch of road from Ceduna to Kalgoorlie with 18 holes of golf in between.

The event has been running for three years and this year John set the course record with a gross score of 92.

"This is the first year I've played and in between playing a few holes at various road stops there is a lot of entertainment available each day. The golf is always interesting with lots of bare ground, trees and wildlife such as the crows being a constant distraction."

"Initially we start off with a champagne breakfast on the foreshore at Ceduna. Then we have a beer and barbie with the whales at

the spectacular Australian Bight. There's a \$10,000 hole in one competition at Madura, an indigenous dance display at Noresman and a charity fun run and putting competition at Border Town. Finally we finish off with a Black Tie Dinner and presentation which is a great way to end the week," John said.

"Nearly all the money raised from the festival goes to charitable causes so it's not just a great golfing experience," John added.

One thing's for sure John is planning on being back next year where he hopes to set a new record for the competition.

*Unwanted crows can prove a distraction during the week long event.*



## New Recruit for Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team has a new recruit with Station Electrical electrician Kate Williams joining the team last month.

Always up for a new challenge, Kate was enthusiastic about joining the team and learning new skills which would not only be useful at work but also in the home environment.



Kate is the latest recruit to join the Emergency Response Team.

"Over the past couple of years I have gained a lot of experience in fire systems so I thought I would be able to put this to good use in the fire team."

"I am really enjoying the training and keen to regain my advanced first aid certificate which had lapsed a few years ago," Kate said.

Kate was appreciative of the support she had received from the other team members who had helped her make a smooth transition into the team.

"There's a lot of people who have been there for a long time and they have been only too willing to share their knowledge and help out," she said.

Kate is no stranger to taking on new roles after previously having successfully taken on secondments in the Training and Production Commercial sections.

Superintendent Safety Systems, Allison Hutton welcomed Kate to the team.

"Kate brings a lot of enthusiasm and commitment and will be a great asset to the team," she said.

Kate joins the team after the departure of Ray Waghorn who has taken up a position as a trainee operator with the Production team.