

## Tim Appointed as Manager Production

After four and a half years at Gladstone Power Station Tim Danby is looking forward to the challenge that comes with his new appointment as Manager Production.

Tim was appointed to his new role on 6 Dec and replaces Joel Otley who has joined Rio Tinto-Pacific Aluminium in Brisbane.

Tim will be focussed initially on filling two key vacancies in Production Commercial including his previous role.

Tim commenced his professional career at Gladstone Power Station after completing a mechanical engineering degree at CQU in Rockhampton.

Initially Tim worked for five years with QEC before heading west to construct Collie Power Station with CBH. Callide C construction followed and soon after he put down roots in Gladstone, leading the CBH CQ Operations.

In July 2007 Tim returned to GPS in the role of Superintendent Production Commercial.

General Manager Glenn Schumacher said Tim brought extensive knowledge and experience of the commercial side of GPS to his new role.

“Tim takes on the new role at a time when we are preparing for a number of challenges associated with the Clean Energy Futures Legislation ie ‘Carbon tax’. I look forward to working with Tim as a member of the Senior Management Team.

Tim is appreciative of the support he has achieved throughout his career and lists Jeff Bowers, Chris Seydel and David Bell as some of the major influences on his early career.

Outside of work Tim likes to spend time with his family. Tim is married to Kate and they

have two children, Lachlan aged 15 and Annika aged 13.

In his spare time Tim enjoys fishing and watching his kids play sport.



*Tim brings extensive knowledge of GPS to his new role as Manager Production.*

## Employees Learn about Risk Assessments



*Lance Beckman, Narelle Greenhalgh, Col Johnston and Mark Sandland were just some of the participants who attended the Risk assessment training with Alistair Schuback from the Jim Knowles Group.*

NRG employees had the opportunity to brush up on their knowledge of Risk Assessments following training provided by Alistair Schuback, a consultant for the Jim Knowles Group.

Health, Safety, Environment and Community Manager, George Bennetts said the purpose of the training was to raise the importance of and improve the skills of employees carrying out risk assessments.

“Risk assessments are the primary tool we have for helping employees to stay safe while working on site. It is important that all employees are able to do job checks and prepare work method statements as part of the safety program.”

“The training was initially offered to maintenance employees but we will be expanding the training to other workgroups and long term contractors in the New Year,” George said.

Mechanical fitter, Bruce Gosschalk said the training was well received by maintenance employees who appreciated the opportunity to refresh their skills that could not only be applied to work but also to the home environment.

“The training provided was excellent and you always pick up something new or have a different perspective on safety after you have been along to the training. It really reinforces the importance of carrying out risk assessments,” Bruce said.

# From Shoey's Desk Trains!

Dear Folks

I have been writing these articles for the Gladrag for over four years now and have covered a wide array of subjects. In thinking about this article it struck me that I might do something different and talk about a subject that is dear to my heart - TRAINS!

Yes, I am a "TRAIN NUT"! I love trains and all that goes along with them. So, why trains? Well as an engineer there are the obvious connections with technology that has its roots back in the Industrial Revolution but has continued to evolve and remain relevant right up to the present day. Some of the greatest names in engineering have had an association with trains and railways (or railroads as our American friends call them). Most people will have at least heard of Stephenson's Rocket. Like a vast majority of "males" I like machines - things that move, involve power, do "stuff"; things to tinker with and adjust and change.

But, there are more to trains than just a professional interest in machines. Here today in Australia in the 21st Century we cannot perhaps understand the world before the Industrial Revolution. For the vast majority of people in Europe, North America and Australia it was a time of very limited opportunities. The argument has been made that the introduction of railways was the single most powerful initiator

*A replica of George Stephenson's Rocket in the National Railway Museum in York, UK.*



of economic take-offs which allowed European societies (and later North America and Japan) to provide their people with improved living standards.

In providing new opportunities for people to travel, railways helped break down old cultural divisions and expand social exchange for ordinary people. The railway station emerged as the place where people met and mingled; the starting and arrival point for journeys to work, the country, the city and the wider world.

Railways brought diverse communities and regions together. In this process, they helped to diminish regional differences

and at the same time, they advanced the process of urbanisation by breaking down the distinction between town and country.

However, railways soon became the pioneers of modern management techniques, particularly in North America and England where private companies operated the enterprises. Railway companies were the first corporations run by professional managers who did not necessarily control the company's shares. They established new organisation structures with clear functions between departments and they forged new cultures of customer service.

In short, trains (and railways) had a key part in changing our world! Changes that have given people like you and I opportunities that our forbearers did not have and could never have even dreamt of. Our challenge is to make use of the opportunities that we have.

*And at the end of the day, I just love trains!*

## GPS – Our Future

Regards  
SHOEY  
Glenn Schumacher  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Courtney Honoured with Queen's Scout Award

Vacation Student Courtney Rohde had a good reason to celebrate this month after she was recently presented with the prestigious Queen's Scout Award.

To achieve the award Courtney was required to complete around 30 activities based around leadership development, personal growth, outdoor activities and community involvement.

"I had only joined the Gladstone Kareeba Venturers group in Grade 11 but set myself a goal achieve the award before I moved to Brisbane for University studies," Courtney said.

The former Toolooa OP1 student said completing the requirements for the award had taken two years but it was well worth the effort.

"The personal development skills I've learned have helped me in my everyday life as well as get me more involved with the community. Attending council meetings, volunteering with conservation

volunteers, learning to snorkel and organising events were just some of things I really enjoyed as part of completing the ward," Courtney said.

Courtney has recently joined GPS on Student Vacation Placement Program and will return to Queensland University in March to commence the second year of her Bachelor of Engineering and Science dual degree.



*Courtney is presented with her Queens Scout Award by Gladstone Regional Mayor, Gail Sellers.*

## Upcoming Community Events

### Clean-up Australia Day

The twenty second national Clean-up Australia Day is on **Sunday 4 March** and interested employees and their families are invited to volunteer their services for the morning.

This will be the twenty first year GPS has participated in this worthwhile program which aims to make people more aware of the environment and the need to recycle and to reduce the amount of waste. If you would like to be part of this community service please contact Gary Macnamara on ext. 504.

### NRG Great Raft Race

NRG is once again sponsoring The Great Raft Race at the 2012 Gladstone Harbour Festival. The race will be held on **Good Friday 6 April at the Goondoon Street Boat Ramp**.

NRG will sponsor the construction of a raft to be built and crewed by NRG employees. The raft design should be safe, environmentally friendly and have high entertainment value.

# Apprentice Achievement Awards

NRG's top apprentices were recently honoured for their work achievements over the past 12 months.

In his presentation to the group Manager Maintenance Martin Thomas acknowledged the award winners and praised the support staff and mentors who had helped the group achieve a consistently high standard throughout their four years of training.

"Although I was not directly involved in selecting the winners, I can assure you it was a close call with many of these awards and some fine apprentices missing out. These young people are no less committed to their trade than the award winners and should be justifiably proud of their efforts," Martin said.

Specialist Maintenance Training John Marxsen said the Achievement Awards were designed to formally recognise an apprentice's achievement in striving for excellence and maintaining that excellence over four years.

This year the Mechanical Apprentice High Achievement Award was presented to fourth year apprentice Stuart Norris while the Electrical High Achievement Award was presented to Ryan Pickels. They received an \$800 bursary to spend on tools or books and a watch for their efforts.

The Electrical Apprentice of the Year Award winners were Dylan Stitt (first year), Luke Critchley (second year), Nelson Corones (third year) and Ryan Pickels (fourth year).

Mechanical Apprentice of the Year Award winners were Jayden Adams (first year), Kris Fleming (second year), Ethan Horrocks (third year) and Brodie Huth (fourth year). Each apprentice received a \$100 voucher for the purchase of tools or books.

Colin and Kay Prendergast were on hand to present The Bruce Prendergast Merit Award to third year apprentice Nelson Corones. This award is sponsored by the GPS Rec Club and voted on by all apprentices at GPS.

The top apprentices were selected on the basis of performance assessments by crew members and superintendents, attendance records, sick leave and participation in workgroup activities.

John also praised the efforts of the apprentices for maintaining an excellent health and safety record.

"Stuart Norris had no uncertified sick days for the duration of his apprenticeship while Ryan Pickels had only one sick day in total for the whole of his apprenticeship," John said.



(Rear L-R) Kris Fleming, Ethan Horrocks, Brodie Huth and Nelson Corones  
(Front L-R) Dylan Stitt, Ryan Pickles, Stuart Norris and Jayden Adams.

## New Apprentices Ready to Start

The new apprenticeship intake meet and greet morning tea held last month was a great success with the new apprentices keen to start their careers at the power station.

Employee Relations Officer, Julie Evans said the morning tea was a great opportunity for the apprentices and their parents/guardians to come to site and meet some of the people they would be working with.

"It also gives us an opportunity to provide them with their uniforms and complete some of the paper work before they commence," Julie said.

In his presentation NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher welcomed the new apprentices

while Training Development Specialist John Marxsen gave them a brief overview of what to expect during their apprenticeships.

"NRG is committed to training our youth as it is an investment not only for the power station but for the community as a whole," Shoey said.

This year NRG offered nine new apprenticeships, two electrical, two electrical and instrumentation, four mechanical and one in fabrication trade. This is the first time NRG has offered the five year dual electrical apprenticeship.

The new apprentices will commence at the station on Tuesday 31 January.



Manager Maintenance, Martin Thomas welcomes former NRG employee Peter Caughey and his son Hayden to the apprentice intake meet and greet morning tea.



Superintendent Station Electrical, Russell Hunt was pleased to meet up with new apprentice Warren McDonald and his dad Greg.

## Student Vacation Placement Program Kicks off

NRG has recently employed seven university students under the new Student Vacation Placement Program.

Employee Relations Officer Julie Evans said the Employee Relations group had been exploring the possibilities for some time of taking on university students over the Christmas break.

"We asked each of the sections on site whether they wanted to participate in the program and we got an overwhelming response. We weren't able to get a student for every section but we are pleased to finally have this program off the ground for the first time," Julie said.

Under the program the students will be provided with 12 weeks of paid employment while working on projects alongside professional staff at the station.

The seven students – Lyle Campbell, Benjamin Lewis, Chantel Selmanovic, Callum Stein, Damien Hensen, Courtney Rohde and Jesse Klupfel are employed in the areas of Health Safety and Environment, Risk Management, Chemical Processes and Technical Services

During their time at GPS the students will be working on projects that will not only provide hands on opportunities for learning but will also benefit the station as well.

All of the students will be returning to their second year of studies except for Lyle Campbell who will commence the third year of his mechanical engineering program at Curtin University in Perth. Having family in Gladstone has also been a positive for Lyle who is enjoying the benefits of living in a smaller town.

Lyle has been working on a project to modify access around the blow down tanks and has really enjoyed the support he has received from Mechanical Superintendents Clinton Windsor and Rob Wemyss.

Fellow electrical engineering student and Gladstone local Damien Hensen has been working in the Technical Services crew on modifications to the station treated water tanks.

"You're always asking a lot of questions but I found the other employees are always willing to offer assistance where they can," Damien said.

The students will be on site until 17 February 2012.



The vacation students are (Rear L-R) – Ben Lewis, Lyle Campbell, Callum Stein, Jesse Klupfel (Seated) Courtney Rohde, Damien Hensen and Chantel Selmanovic.

## Sonia Paddles to Success at Cook Island Canoe Festival

Occupational Health Officer, Sonia Adams has continued on her success as a world renowned outrigger after competing in the annual "Vaka Eiva" (Canoe Festival) held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in November last year.

Competing with the sponsored "Crown Beach Belles" the nine person team took out first place in the prestigious 36km relay around Rarotonga.



Sonia (second from front) and her team "The Crown Beach Belles" power away to win the 36 km team relay event.

"We were very excited to win the relay as the team were geographically spread out and weren't able to train together. The last time we had paddled together was a year ago so we had to rely on past experience to get us through," Sonia said.

More than 800 paddlers competed in the weekend long event which is considered to be one of the biggest regattas in world outriggering.

As well as her win in the team relay Sonia also managed to achieve two firsts, a second and a third in her other four events.

"I always look forward to competing in the annual Vaka Eiva as it is one of the more beautiful parts of the world and it is great to be on the water in a team's event with friends. The racing is always very competitive but off the water it is very social," Sonia said.

Throughout her 16 year career Sonia has represented Australian National outriggering teams in Hawaii, New Zealand and the Cook islands. Next year she is considering competing in the World Championships in Hawaii in September.

# Rec Club Children's Christmas Party

Thanks to all of our Rec Club Members who attended the Kids' Christmas Party on Sunday the 4 December – a great day was had by all. A big thank you also to our awesome Rec Club Committee and extra helpers who put in a huge effort on the day.

The kids had a wonderful time with plenty to keep them entertained throughout the day including the swimming pool, merry-go-round, gladiators, laughing clowns and the mini-jeps.

Our hot dog chef Brownie kept up a steady stream of delicious dagwood dogs while Aussie Ice creams provided choc-dipped ice creams for everyone.

Santa arrived at the pool in the shiny new NRG fire truck, blazing with lights and sirens. Then it was up to the big tent where Santa and his helpers handed out a range of presents and lolly bags.

The Rec Club Committee would like to thank David Lahey for donning the Santa suit for the third year in a row and Michael Holmes for bringing along extra tents to protect everyone from the sun.

Until next year!

Katherine Kuppen  
GPS Rec Club Secretary



# Station Shine's after Clean-up

A major cleanup of the station was undertaken in December in preparation for the cyclone season.

Manager Maintenance, Martin Thomas was pleased with the efforts of employees.

"It was great to see so many getting out and about and really getting into the spirit of the clean-up. Many I spoke to said that there seemed to be less rubbish to clean up this year, a sign we are all doing the right thing when we finish a job and not waiting for days like these to dispose of our rubbish. It's all about pride in our workplace." Martin said.

Approximately 15 cubic metres of general waste, 7 tonnes of scrap metal (which was recycled) and 15 cubic metres of timber (also recycled) was collected from site.

Property Services Officer, Ben Patchett said the waste transfer station was kept busy throughout the morning with a lot of small rubbish being collected around site.

"We had a steady stream of NRG employees and contractors who were all fairly conscientious about sorting out the different wastes. The less we send to landfill the better off the environment is and it saves NRG money as well," Ben said.

Special thanks once again to the members of the Rec Club who set up and cooked a barbecue lunch for all people involved in the clean up.

*Lance Beckman had no trouble finding rubbish to clean up in the workshop.*



## Farewell Allison Hutton



*Allison is looking forward to her new role on the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal.*

After four years at GPS as the Safety Systems Superintendent, Allison Hutton has decided to move on.

Allison has taken up a new role as the Health, Safety and Environment Manager on the Stage 1 construction of the new Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal.

Allison said she was absolutely delighted to take on the role especially as it meant not having to move away from Gladstone.

"Staying in Gladstone was something I really wanted to do and to have an opportunity of a career move like this without having to uproot the family and move house is just fantastic," Allison said.

Throughout her time at the station Allison had been involved in many new safety and community initiatives including the ZIP program, RMSS, the flood donation program, the replacement of the fire appliance as well as coordinating the visit by the Prime Minister and Premier in 2009.

Allison said working at GPS had been a real privilege and she had a lot of wonderful memories to take away from her time here.

"It's been a fantastic opportunity to work with some of the most amazing people in Australia and it is something I will carry with me forever," she said.

## Andrew's off to Brisbane

Analyst Support Specialist, Andrew Cronin has decided to move to Brisbane after a three year stint at GPS. Andrew has joined Ergon Energy as a Senior Market Analyst.

After thoroughly enjoying Gladstone's coastal lifestyle Andrew said he was looking forward to taking up residence in the Sandgate/Deagon area in Brisbane.

"I've really loved the fishing here in Gladstone and being on the coast so we have decided we really want to continue that lifestyle in Brisbane. The people here have a great understanding of the need to

balance work and play and it's been a great place to live."

Andrew said he had particularly enjoyed working at the station.

"The people are very friendly and there have been a lot of work challenges in the development of new reporting systems on the commercial and operational side and this has made my job very interesting," he said.

Originally from Bundaberg, Andrew had spent many years working for Tarong Energy prior to joining GPS in 2008.



*Andrew has moved to Brisbane to take up a job with Ergon Energy.*

## Getting Personal with Electrician Troy Bennett



### In the short time you have been here what's been your impression of the plant and people so far?

I have enjoyed meeting new people. Everyone here is friendly and willing to answer questions and there is a wealth of knowledge here. It's a challenge working on plant that is different to what I have encountered in my previous roles and I'm enjoying it.

### What have you enjoyed about working in your new role in Station Electrical?

The team and the work environment are probably the best things. The variety of equipment the station covers keeps things interesting.

### Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I started work in 2002 as a night filler at Cast's IGA then after high school I was a heat treating technician for about a year

working all over CQ. I then did a short stint up north before starting my apprenticeship at Boyne smelters in 2007. After my apprenticeship I started with Corfield's Electrical working on under ground power, construction and industrial equipment.

### What attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

It was a good chance to get back into maintenance. I want to further my career and continue learning about different control systems, instrumentation and gain some more qualifications.

### Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

My biggest passion would have to be martial arts. I've been lucky enough to be training and instructing at Gladstone Martial Arts Academy for nine years. I love watching the UFC and mixed martial arts, as I originally started Muay Thai kickboxing and have just begun studying jiu-jitsu. I find it unbelievable the amount of skill required to go into the "cage". Other than that I'm a petrol head and love my Subaru WRX and old school V8's. I've recently started rock'n'roll dancing although I'm short a partner at the moment.

### What do you like about living in Gladstone?

Its great I can work, live and play here. All my clubs and hobbies are here and I can go fishing and camping as well. My job's just down the road and there's heaps on if you have a look. I'm still finding stuff to do and I've been here nearly 12 years.

### Where were you born and where did you do your early education?

I'm originally from Bundaberg but I've moved a round a bit. I did a stint in Gracemere while my dad worked construction at Stanwell Power Station. I was then in Bunbury Western Australia while he worked at Collie before coming back to the sunshine state and moving to Gladstone.

### Tell us a little bit about your family

My mum and dad both live and work local and my younger brother also works in town. He's completing a dual trade apprenticeship at QAL.

### My worst habit is...

I snore really loud and I mean really loud

### At home I like to cook...

Italian, Thai and Indian food

### The best holiday I've ever been on was to...

I think the forced holiday I had over last Christmas when I was flooded in Agnes Water, not because it was unbelievable but because everything went wrong and it was still a good time.

### You wouldn't know it but I'm good at ...

Cooking dinner but not cleaning up.

### The hardest thing I've ever done was...

Without a doubt the hardest thing was getting my 2nd degree black top grading. I've had ring fights and worked in some pretty dreadful conditions but one fight only lasts 15-20 minutes and when your working you can take a break. That grading was three hours long with no breaks.

## Phone Technology Assists in Diagnosing Plant Problems

Advances in phone technology are allowing people real-time access to plant operating systems without having to be at a computer workstation.

Software that allows people to use their home computers to access the same things that they access from their workstations at the power station has been available for a few years now. The introduction of mobile phones with high resolution viewing screens has now made it practical to use remote log-in software in mobile phones.

Previously when Production Engineering team members wanted to be able to compare the actual status of a plant item

with what was being reported by the Foxboro DCS, one person had to be at a computer workstation relaying information verbally to another person out in the plant. The use of modern smart phones with remote log-in software means that Foxboro screens and process trending can be viewed on the phone screen by the person out in the plant.

Production Engineering have already used this to simplify and speed up the diagnosis of problems with boiler flue gas oxygen analysers, and ID Fan vane position.

David Lahey



The live Foxboro can now be displayed on the smart phone screen.

## Where are they now? – Doug Rowe



*Doug enjoys spending time in his bush garden*

### Tell us about your early life in Gladstone

I was born in Gladstone 81 years ago and have lived all my life in the area. I spent 50 years in Yarwun as a paw paw and small crops farmer as well as eight years in Mt Larcom. I moved back into Gladstone in 1987 to be closer to the family.

### What period did you work at GPS?

I started at the station in March 1982 and retired in July 1992

### Tell us about your roles at the station

I worked as gardener all the time I was

there; working for Brian Robson and John Norris. We were more or less our own bosses doing what we thought needed to be done. At the time there was a lot of landscaping and planting of trees that need to be done so we were always on the go.

### What are your fondest memories of working at the station and who are some of the people you enjoyed working with?

When I started there were eight of us in the gardening crew – myself and Arthur Dunnett, Paul Lenz (both father and son), Eugene Radas, Perry Whitcombe, Noel Norris and Sue Sierson. We all got on very well with each other and the bosses. Our job was to improve the landscape around the station and there were 30 different small and large areas to care for. We also had to look after the green house as well.

Finding a hole to plant a tree was hard enough but getting it to grow in rock and clay without water was a real challenge. After they built the roundabout into the station there was a lot of landscaping work which had to be completed on the front oval including the sprinkler systems and planting of hundreds of trees. We also did a lot of work on the back oval which was to be used as a cricket oval at the time.

Sue was a very inquisitive person who was always dedicated to saving all things that moved. One day she was bitten by a snake after she brought it to me asking if it was poisonous. It couldn't have been too bad as she came back to work the next day after spending the night in hospital.

### What have you done since leaving Gladstone Power Station?

I moved back into Gladstone in 1987 and have enjoyed spending time in my house in Kaleantha Park Estate. I have a bush house out the back which keeps me occupied as well as a small garden. I am not much into sport or TV but enjoy reading a lot.

### Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

I see people at the shops from time to time and recognise their faces but can't always remember their names.

### Tell us a little bit about your family?

I have three daughters and a son. Two of my daughters live in Gladstone while one daughter lives in Moranbah. My son owns the paper shop at Mt Larcom. I also have 22 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. One of my daughters Margie McCardle is well known for her bush poetry.

## Service Register – January 2012

The NRG Service Register recognises employees who have completed 10 years service or more at GPS. This register is for employees whose anniversary falls during the month of January.

50 years Don Shambrook

49 years Trevor Heard

46 years Tony Frazer

43 years Bill Cary

42 years Wayne Watson

37 years Ross Ahern, Kevin Johnson

36 years Bob Dennien, Ross Stieler, Rod Augusten, John Cook, Graham Long

34 years Michael Mann, Ray Waghorn

32 years Neil Smith, Russell Hunt, Kerry Raine

31 years Ron Williams, Darren Ross

30 years Gary Macnamara, Bob Pirie, John Hall, Neil Petersen

29 years Ray Sumner

27 years Kelvin Bebendorf, Bill Whitmore

26 years Stephen Lewis

25 years John Dickfos

24 years John Gibson

23 years Jeffrey Clifton

22 years

David Allen, Kelvin Newman

20 years

Gerry Schouten, Robert Sweeney

19 years

Andrew Sibley, Sandra Hunt

18 years

Matthew Adamson, Robert Button

14 years

Graham Murray, Kym Donald

## Support for St Vinnies Continues

The Units Electrical workgroup have continued their support for local charity St Vincent de Paul by raising money for hampers over Christmas.

Workgroup member Kev Ryan said \$2075 was raised which was used to purchase several hampers for the needy in Gladstone.

"This year it was decided that we open up the appeal to everyone on site rather than just the Units Electrical group and a few other supporters," Kev said.

"It is always pleasing to be able to give something back to the community especially at this time of year when a lot of people are doing it tough."

"It's a great team effort not only from our crew but the other supporters on site. I know many of our own crew look forward to donating each year. This is the fifth time we have helped supply hampers to needy families over Christmas and each year the donations have increased. Thank you to all of you who were so generous. A special thank you must go to the Station Auxiliaries workgroup who donated \$640." Kev added.