

## Darryl Scoops Business Award

Superintendent Training and Development, Darryl Phillips was both surprised and elated after winning the Team Leader/Supervisor of the Year Award at the Australian Institute of Management Awards last month.

Darryl and Superintendent A Shift John Dickfos were both finalists in the Team Leaders/Supervisor category.

General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glen "Shoey" Schumacher congratulated both Darryl and John on reaching the finals and on Darryl being the winner.

"Such achievements do not come without a lot of hard work and are a reflection of the dedication and drive of both Darryl and John. Their willingness to test themselves as leaders by undergoing the AIM assessment process illustrates their ongoing drive to become better leaders," Shoey said.

"This is again an example of GPS people not only striving to improve themselves, but also to show the Gladstone community and beyond that we here at GPS are trying to set a high standard for our own performance in so many different areas," Shoey added.

Darryl wished to thank the Training and Development team for their support in helping him achieve the award.

"We work very much as a team. A leader is only as good as the people he is leading. Them doing their job well makes my job so much easier and enjoyable," Darryl said.

Darryl commenced his career with GPS in January 2006 as Superintendent Production Services where he was responsible for managing production training, emergency response and site security. As part of the 2007 organisational realignment a decision was made to centralise training to support a site wide approach and this resulted in the Training and Development workgroup being

realigned with the Human Resources department. Darryl said the main focus of the group was to support the enhancement of employee's skills and knowledge to ensure business outcomes are achieved.



*Darryl accepts the AIM Supervisor of the Year Award from AIM Chairman Scott Petrey.  
(Picture supplied by Kellie Blinco Photography)*

## Potters Gallery Reopened



*Manager Maintenance, Martin Thomas accepts congratulations from the Gladstone Potter's Group Vice President, Margaret Shaw for NRG's donation to the group.*

Manager Maintenance, Martin Thomas had the opportunity to attend the reopening of the Potters Gallery on the Dawson Highway after extensive refurbishment was undertaken on the building. NRG has previously provided financial assistance to the group to help with repairs to damage caused by termite infestation.

President of the Gladstone Area Potters Group, Brenda Lyon said the group were very appreciative of the support provided by NRG.

"NRG's donation will help us to continue our work with schools, people with disabilities and all members of the community. Without such support we would not be able to be part of Gladstone's bright future," Brenda said.

Martin said he appreciated seeing the gallery's work firsthand.

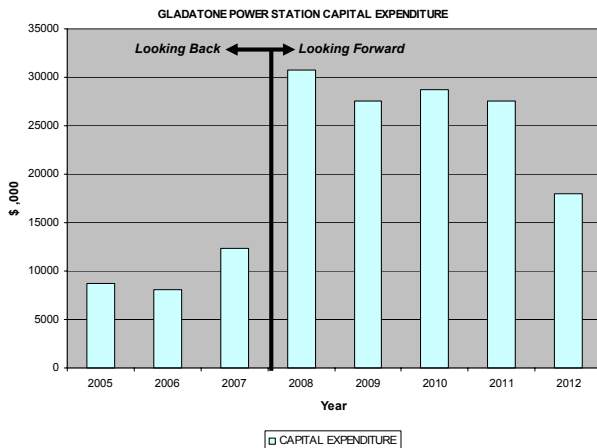
"There were many fine pieces of pottery and artwork on display. Gladstone has a very strong pool of talented artists and it is important that there is a showcase for these artists to display their works," Martin said.

## From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

We are very much living in interesting times given all the turmoil that is going on in the world around us. Sometimes the challenges that we all seem to be facing both personally and collectively can seem overwhelming and there does not always seem to be a clear way forward. From a GPS perspective, this is very much a time to stay focused upon what we need to do to make sure that there is a good future for this business. As I have indicated on a number of occasions, one of the key issues for GPS is the ongoing reliability of this station. Now, all of us at GPS have a role to play in contributing to this however, we have also recognised that there needed to be an increased level of plant renewal here at Gladstone and that takes money.

Well, it has been very pleasing over the past few weeks to see a number of key plant renewal issues reach the point that all approvals have been gained and we are now out placing orders. Some of the highlights have been the approval of a new Ash Hopper for Unit #4 (the start of a station wide program), a spare Generator Transformer for Units 5 & 6 and now a complete spare Generator. This last item opens the way to a Generator rewind program at GPS over the coming years. These three projects alone represent an investment in GPS of 37.3 million Australian dollars. We are also working on finalising approvals for a major project at the Coal Train Unloading Facility. The graph below clearly shows the change in the investment taking place at GPS.



Investment such as this is in my view a vote of confidence in the future of Gladstone Power Station. We do have a long way to go and many issues to address to ensure that future but, I for one am very optimistic. In many ways this investment is also a vote of confidence in the GPS Team and our ability to operate and maintain this power station well. It is also a vote of confidence in our ability to address the issues that are coming our way now and in the future. This level of investment does not just happen, there has already been an extremely large amount of work done in getting these projects to this point and I very much thank all of those people across GPS who have worked so hard up to now on these projects. The work is not over. Now, of course we must deliver the right outcomes for the plant.

I look forward to seeing the improvements that we all can make in Gladstone Power Station over the coming years. It is an exciting time and we are the ones who have to make it a reality. We all have a role to play and I think we have a lot to be optimistic about.

Regards  
SHOEY  
Glenn Schumacher  
GENERAL MANAGER

**GPS Recreation Club Inc.**

**Upcoming Events**

**Adults' Christmas Party**  
Queens Restaurant  
Friday 28 November  
6.00pm to Midnight

**Kids' Christmas Party**  
Western Suburbs Pool  
Sunday 7 December  
12.00pm to 3.00pm

## Team from Huntly Visit GPS

A delegation from Huntly Power Station in New Zealand visited GPS last month on a fact finding tour.

The group comprising Coal and Ash Operations Manager, Brett McGregor, C & I Electrical Technician, Craig Milley and Production Maintainer, Ross Macdonald were keen to discuss safety and coal and ash management issues with various NRG personnel including Joel Otley, George Bennetts, Wayne Franks, Darren Ross and John Kunze.

Health, Safety, Environment and Community Manager, George Bennetts said the group were appreciative of the opportunity to meet power station employees and tour the plant.

"We have established a good relationship with Huntly which will allow us to share information in the future," George said.

Huntly Power Station is the largest thermal power station in New Zealand and is located in the town of Huntly in the Waikato district. It is a 1,000MW coal fired station operated by Genesis Energy, a state owned enterprise and supplies around 17% of the country's power.



Huntly Power Station's Coal and Ash Operations Manager, Brett McGregor, C & I Electrical Technician, Craig Milley and Production Maintainer, Ross MacDonald discuss their visit with Production Superintendent, Wayne Franks.

## NRG Supports Relay for Life Fundraiser

The Queensland Cancer Fund's fifth annual Relay for Life held at Chanel College last month was once again a great success with approximately \$150,000 raised for cancer research.

This year more than 1,000 people divided in 53 teams of friends, family and workmates kept their team baton moving around the Chanel track for 18 hours during the overnight event. Non stop entertainment including live music, a Miss Relay competition and a collage of colourful tents created a festive atmosphere.

Flying the flag for NRG were team members Kevin, Mary, and Dominique Ryan, John Lynch, Kris and Brian Petersen, Christine, Rebecca and Ahyden Clarke, Phil Hayne and Jay Wilson. The NRG theme this year was "We are all rowing the boat together." The tent was decorated accordingly, complete with row boat.

Through their fundraising efforts the team raised \$3,625 with NRG sponsoring the \$1,100 registration fee.

Earlier on in the night participants joined in the Candlelight Ceremony to support those fighting cancer and to remember loved ones who had lost the battle to cancer.



Participants remembered those who had lost love ones during the Candlelight Ceremony.

Thanks must go to all who assisted with fundraising efforts, including all who donated so generously in both time and money.

"It was great to have the support from NRG management and all those who contributed to our fundraising especially the lunch time sausage sizzles. The relay is a great community event for a very worthy cause." Kev said

Relay for Life has become the world's largest fundraiser with events held in 14 countries across the world.



NRG Relay for Life team members Brian and Kris Petersen and Kev, Mary and Dominique Ryan were proud to support the annual cancer fundraising event.



The finishing line's in sight for the 1,000 people who kept their batons moving around the track during the 18 hour event.

## Employees Enjoy Turtle Way Fun Run



Martin, Scott, Greg, Neil and Matt were keen to represent NRG at the Corporate Challenge Fun Run.

A number of NRG employees recently took part in the 4km Turtle Way Corporate Challenge Fun Run.

Despite finishing out of the major placings the NRG team featuring Neil Pease, Martin Thomas, Scott Leinster and Matt Adamson acquitted themselves well against 40 other corporate teams in the event. Greg McDiarmid also competed on an individual basis.

Hosted by Boyne Smelters and Gladstone Road Runners the annual event attracted 183 competitors throughout the Gladstone region.

Team spokesman, Neil Pease said it was great to have an NRG team involved this year.

"It's a great way to spend a Sunday morning and mix with people from other industries. We're looking to build upon our success this year and hopefully have a few more teams from NRG involved next year," Neil said.

## Getting Personal with Superintendent Maintenance Systems Mick Hills



***In the short time you have worked at the station what's been your impression of the plant and people?***

How clean it is compared to where I had worked previously.

The people have been great in making me feel welcome and are easy to work with.

***What have you enjoyed about your new role?***

The challenge of learning a new maintenance system and getting it to function the way it is capable of doing. Also having a great team of people working for and with me.

***How have you found working with the other employees at the station?***

As stated before, everyone has been really good in making me feel welcome. They have all been very positive about how my role here can help them do their jobs and also the cooperation has been good so far. Like John Norris volunteering to mentor me, although I am not sure if this is a good or bad thing?

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

I completed my instrumentation apprenticeship at Dobbie Instruments in Melbourne, then worked as a tradesman at SECV at Yallourn. From there I went to Maryvale Paper Mill and on to QAL in 1981. During my 27 years at QAL, I worked as a tradesman, then became a supervisor in 1985, mostly in the boiler house. I began as a planning coordinator in 1995 and then progressed to the role of Planning Engineer in 2001 which was similar to what as I am doing here. In this role I was part of the SAP implementation team for the Plant Maintenance module.

***What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?***

The blue uniform of course. Not really, I had been told by many people that it is a great place to work and they were right, it is.

***Tell us about some of your interests and***

***hobbies.***

Travelling with my lovely wife Leonie. Enjoying time with my family - surfing, riding trail bikes and touch football. I sometimes swim as well to stay fit for surfing trips.

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

I like the climate, especially surfing in warm water.

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

Born in Morwell but grew up in Traralgon in the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

***Tell us a little bit about your family.***

Married to Leonie (30 years). Two children, Matt (22) works for Australian Helicopters and Rebecca (16) who is in year 11 at Chanel. Both surf with me when we can.

***When I was a child I wanted to be.....***

Grown up. Ironically now I am older I wish I was still young again.

***At home I like to cook....***

A roast chicken in the Weber

***A song that means a lot to me is.....***

"Last Resort" by the Eagles

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

Getting swim fit to become a Surf Life Saver, as I have the floatation of a "star picket".

## Getting to Know Superintendent Electrical Projects Scott Ferrier

***In the short time you have worked at the station what's been your impression of the plant and people?***

I've found the plant to be "Clean and Tidy" quite different from where I came from. Everyone has been very helpful, friendly and approachable making the change very easy.

***What have you enjoyed about your new role?***

I'm still working my way into it.

***How have you found working with the other members of your workgroup?***

Everyone has been very supportive and given me plenty of direction on what sort of 4WD I should own.

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

I started as a graduate on the Olympic Dam Project in 1989, then moved west as a project engineer on a nickel smelter. I spent nine years in the North Parks underground copper mine in NSW and from there moved to Gladstone working five years in the Reliability Engineering section at Rio Tinto Yarwun.

***What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?***

A number of things attracted me to the station - the size of the company and the fact that it was an industry I hadn't worked in before. There were also opportunities for training and development and I had good feedback from current and past employees about the company.

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

I enjoy woodwork, fishing and spending time with the family.

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

I like being near the ocean. After working inland for 14 years it was good to get back on the coast.

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

I was born in the best state (NSW) - also lived in Tassie and Queensland spending seven years in all three as I grew up.

***Tell us a little bit about your family.***

I met my wife Shannon in Roxby, South Australia and her main hobby is quilting. We have two children, a daughter Emily (12yrs) and a son Joshua (10yrs) who both go to Clinton State School. Emily enjoys playing the clarinet and touch football. Josh

is sports mad - his main sports are soccer and tennis.

***What is your favourite childhood memory?***

Growing up on the east coast of Tasmania from the age of seven to 14.

***At home I cook....***

All different foods however this is not always well received. This hasn't stopped me from trying.

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

Recently my daughter Emily was diagnosed with leukaemia., so hearing that and having to explain it to her with my wife has been the hardest thing I have had to do.



## Ruth Looks Forward to Koala Ecology Expedition

Imagine living on a quiet volcanic island fringed with reefs, rainforests and eucalypt woodlands which support a healthy population of koalas.

Well that dream will come true for Chemical Laboratory Technician, Ruth Searston when she takes up her Gladstone Power Station Earthwatch fellowship later this month.

The fellowship provides Ruth with a two week field research project on St Bees Island, which is located 20kms east of Mackay. The island remains undeveloped and is a gazetted national park because of its scientific and cultural significance as a koala colony.

Ruth will be part of a team project working with koala experts Dr Alistair Melzer and Dr William Ellis. This will involve gathering data on koala demographics, distribution, genetic diversity and habitat use as well participating in koala tracking and field ecology.

"I expect there will be some long hikes to help find and track the collared koalas and some of this will be done at night time. As part of the process the koalas are weighed and fitted with ear tags before being released back to their natural environment," Ruth said.

"The koalas on St Bees are a very special colony and our research will help to answer the question why island populations in Queensland don't outstrip their habitat while similar populations in Victoria and South Australia appear to," Ruth said.

Prior to her departure on 15 October Ruth said she was excited to have been selected and wished to thank NRG for supporting the program. She is looking forward to sharing her experiences with Gladrag readers when she returns.

"I have always been interested in conservation and sustainability and I'm hoping the trip will provide me with a lot of hands on experience in the field," she said.

Earthwatch is an international non-profit organisation which engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education. Each year Earthwatch enables around 4000 volunteers to assist in 140 field research projects around the world.



Ruth is looking forward to taking part in her field research project on St Bees Island.

## Employees Learn about a Healthy Lifestyle

Did you know that Australian workers with poor health take up to nine times more annual sick days than workers with good health. Furthermore, the healthiest employees are nearly three times more productive while at work than the least healthy. The research conducted by Medibank Private, also found that employees with poor health and lifestyles have higher levels of "presenteeism" (being unproductive while at work).



Queensland Health Nutritionist, Nicole Starkey and Wellness Committee Chairperson Jay Wilson discuss the nutrition program being offered to NRG employees.

These were just some of the interesting facts presented by Queensland Health Nutritionist, Nicole Starkey who has been presenting a series of talks to NRG employees on diet and nutrition during the past month.

The purpose of the nutrition program is to help employees reduce their health risks such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, assist in achieving a healthy weight and improve overall health through good nutrition and physical activity.

Topics covered during the five week program include:

- What is a healthy lifestyle?
- Metabolism and your energy needs.
- The Australian Dietary Guidelines.
- What is a serve size?
- A fat chat.
- Label Reading
- What is GI?

According to Nicole poor eating habits can contribute to many chronic lifestyle and health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, obesity and cancer.

"Time taken off work by employees for treatment and recovery of these conditions can significantly impact upon the efficiency and profitability of businesses," she said.

The nutrition program is an initiative of the Wellness Committee who meet once a month to develop activities which promote a healthy lifestyle.

## Ash Hopper Replacement Project Begins

Project planning and design work is currently underway on replacing all six ash hoppers at the station including associated foundations, platforms and piping systems.

Specialist Mechanical Asset Engineer Auxiliary and Fuel Plant, Kevin Creagh said the station's furnace ash hoppers have reached the end of their design life and were requiring increased maintenance to remain serviceable.

"This work is part of a broader ash system refurbishment program that will be implemented over the next few years. Unit 4 ash hopper will be the first to be replaced in conjunction with the 2009 outage," Kevin said.

The mechanical design work for the project is nearing completion with electrical design works to be completed by the end of 2008.

"The new design will continue to be a wet impoundment type hopper as we currently have but has a number of enhancements targeted at improving ashing performance and system reliability. The new hopper will be made from a higher grade of stainless steel that will be thicker, stronger and more resistant to the corrosive environment it has to endure," he said.

According to Kevin subtle geometry changes have also been made to improve the ash flow out of the hopper.

"One of the challenges has been the relatively low height available under the boilers and the need to make allowance for future downward creep growth of the boiler headers that sit above the ash hopper. This means the new hoppers will be 100mm shorter but provide steeper slope angles to help with ash and clinker flow," he said.

There will also be a number of additional water supply systems in the new design which are aimed at improving the removal of ash and clinker material from the

hopper. Larger high flow nozzles will be installed in the bottom of the hopper to assist with removing clinker material which has previously caused blockages with the existing design.

This system will operate separately to the standard ashing system which is aimed at removing the finer ash from the hopper. Additional temperature and cooling spray flow monitoring will also be incorporated into the new design.



Kevin Creagh inspects the ash hopper on Unit 1 which will be refurbished in the next few years.

## Boost for Calliope SES

The Calliope State Emergency Services group received a timely boost this month following a donation made by the Gladstone Community Charities Fund.

SES volunteer and NRG Power Plant Controller Bill Cary said the \$1,200 donation was used to purchase a marine GPS sounder which would assist in flood boat navigation.

"The GPS depth sounder will assist in safety navigation during search and rescue operations in the SES flood boat. Unfortunately most of our flood boat operations are during inclement weather conditions where night navigation is often required. This really came to our attention as a result of the night time evacuations during the recent Emerald floods," Bill said.

Bill said the group relied on donations from the community and he was very thankful for the support shown by the Charities Fund.



Charities Fund Treasurer, John Leinster and SES volunteer Bill Cary inspect the new GPS navigator purchased by the Charities Fund.

## Minn Graduates

Information Services Officer, Minn Than graduated from CQ University earlier this month.

Minn was presented with a Bachelor of Information Technology with first class honours. Minn's honours project was 100% research in which he designed and built three new Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) Robots for CQU.

Minn said the robots were designed to be used in rescue in saving human lives and making the rescue work much safer and more effective.

"The devastations of disasters in the past few decades have led to the possibilities of inventing useful emergency response robots for urban search and rescue operations in the aftermath of large scale disasters such as earthquakes, floods and terrorist attacks.

The reason why the mobile rescue robots are indispensable is that they can respond promptly without considering the dangers in rescue and human rescuers do not have to risk their lives in undesirable environments," Minn said.

Prior to joining NRG in October last year Minn worked as a web administrator with the Student Services section at the CQU Rockhampton campus.



## Greame Timson Chalks up 25 years

Fuel Plant mechanical fitter Greame chalked up 25 years at GPS this month to become the latest inductee in to the NRG 25 Year Club.

Initially Greame worked in the mills crew for five years before transferring to the burner front crew in 1988 working for then foreman, Kev Taylor.

Despite numerous organisational changes since then Greame has enjoyed being part of burner front crew which has delivered major improvements to the burner front during the past 20 years.

"We always had a good crew of experienced fitters who come from different backgrounds and had a wide variety of skills in different industries. There was Chris Jones who was ex air force, Bill Kennedy from BHP, Barry Lohman had worked in heavy industry and

I was from the aviation industry. During the 1980's and 90's we were involved in a total refurbishment of the burner front."

"We had retracting guns and air rams when I first started and there were a lot of issues around the use of recycled oil which caused us a lot of problems at the time. Fortunately we had good support from engineers like Malcolm Leinster and Jeff Bowers and the changes that resulted made it a lot easier to maintain the plant," Greame said.

"We had a lot of input into the manufacturing of new parts. With some parts we made the prototypes before they were mass produced elsewhere. The burner front is a lot better because of all the changes that were made and it is pleasing to know that what we've done has paid off over the years," Greame added.

Outside of work Greame has been a long term member of the Gladstone Sporting Shooters Association. Many employees have also come to appreciate Greame's fine leatherwork.



## Health Programs for an Ageing Workforce

As the workforce ages and the risk of injury rises, health programs are becoming increasingly important for employers. With the proportion of workers over 50 rapidly increasing in the future this will pose significant challenges for employers trying to reduce the of number injuries and accidents.

There are various strategies to address an ageing workforce with the aim being to maintain health, reduce the impact of risk factors and slow the changes associated with the ageing process. The modifiable risk factors that occur within the age range of employment include physical activity, reducing physical loads, reducing postural demands and eliminating slips trips and falls.

### Physical activity

Current recommendations emphasise that vigorous, intense physical activity is no longer considered to be necessary for health benefits. The important health benefits associated with physical activity

can be gained through activity of moderate intensity—such as walking, swimming or gentle exercise for about 30 minutes per day. Whether you are young adults or old, physical activity needs to be regularly and consistently maintained over time.

### Reduce physical loads

Experiencing heavy physical loads at work will not prevent an individual's physical capacity from declining with age. Older employees are more able to perform effectively and without undue risk of injury if physical loads are reduced to match reduced physical strength. This can be achieved by decreasing the weights and sizes of objects lifted, minimising their distance from the person lifting them and providing mechanical lifting equipment where practicable.

### Ensure good visibility of task-related information

Eyesight usually decreases with age so the working environment may need to be modified to meet the changing visual capacities of older workers. The reduced ability to focus

on close objects may mean there is a need to improve the visibility or legibility of task related information. This may require modifying visual display characteristics such as using a larger screen and font sizes and improving task lighting.

### Reduce postural demands

For employees of all ages postures that take effort to maintain are one of the most commonly experienced risk factors for musculoskeletal injuries. For older workers the problems associated with such postures can be worsened by age-related reductions in joint mobility because of decreased elasticity of ligaments and muscles. In addition the incidence of arthritis increases with age and can further reduce the movement range of affected joints. Strategies include careful design and positioning of workstation furniture and equipment. For seated work, the layout should allow a reasonably upright posture without any need to twist around. Continuous standing in the one position increases the risk of lower back pain. If work must be performed in such a position, it might be possible to use a sit-stand chair which enables employees to vary their posture.

### Minimise glare

Changes within our eyes as we age make older people significantly more susceptible to the effects of glare. It is therefore important for older employees that there is effective shielding of direct light sources, such as can be provided by suitable diffusers on light fittings. In addition, reflective surfaces such as computer monitors may need to be adjusted to avoid reflected glare.



**Finding the time**

Australians work some of the longest hours of the developed world. Add this work time to the hours and hours of commuting every week and it is easy to see how difficult it can be to find the time to get things done. Even when at work, emails and phone calls eat away at the time we have to get our real jobs done.

In the midst of a raft of demands, how can we possibly keep on top of everything? Short of voluntary unemployment or chronic sleep deprivation (both of which are not recommended!) the average person is not going to find more hours in the day. Instead, we need to make better use of the time we have.

If you find you are running out of time to get things done, at work or at home, you may find it helpful to:

- Make use of commuting time - If you drive get a hands-free kit and make phone calls, or read work documents if you take public transport
- Get things done in one trip - Try to make one big shopping trip rather than lots of little ones - the average Australian visits the supermarket 3 times a week!
- Share the load - Ask friends or family to help with tasks to get them finished more quickly

Sometimes it can be difficult to see a way forward when you are too snowed under. If you are struggling to manage your time, you might find it helpful to speak with a Converge International counsellor. Their support and guidance can help you to learn time-saving techniques and get back on top of things.

Information Source: Edited from the paper "Productive and safe workplaces for an ageing workforce"  
[www.apasc.gov.au](http://www.apasc.gov.au)

Freecall 1800 337 068  
[www.convergeinternational.com.au](http://www.convergeinternational.com.au)



where business meets life

## Where are they now? – John Grother

*The Gladrag has introduced a new column titled "Where are they now" which aims to seek out former employees and find out what they've been up to since leaving GPS. If you know of a former employee who may be interested in participating please forward their contact details to Gary Macnamara ext 504.*

### **What period did you work at the station?**

I started my fitting apprenticeship in 1999 and left as a temporary fitter working in the Mills in early 2005.

### **What workgroup did you work with and what are your fondest memories of working at the station?**

As an apprentice we worked in most operating areas of the station and got a lot of experience at a wide variety of skills. Not just skills that are used on the workshop floor, but life skills that we use everyday. I can remember so many good times from GPS. It was the people I worked with that made the experience enjoyable, particularly the group of apprentices during my time there and the mills section where I seemed to keep coming back too. They were all good blokes.

### **What do you miss about living in Gladstone?**

I miss friends and family the most, but I'm back fairly often to see them. I'd like to think that one day I'll be back and working in the area.

### **What have you done since leaving Gladstone?**

I worked a few shutdowns as well as working in Emerald for Rio Tinto at Kestrel in an underground coal mine. I was employed as a longwall fitter and more recently took on leadership roles and supervisor responsibilities. I have been back to TAFE and done extra courses in



*John and his dad Neil still like to race together when time permits.*

diesel mechanics, complex hydraulics and underground mining.

### **Tell us about your go karting success and when you started in the sport.**

It all started with my father who raced many years ago and we decided to give it a go for some fun on weekends. Sixteen years and a few nice championships have gone so quickly. Nowadays Dad (Neil) and I still race together when work allows.

### **How has your dad helped you achieve success in your sport?**

He is my inspiration to keep racing. I want to be as fast as he is when I'm his age. He has taught me everything I know in karting and supported me all the way. He still builds all the engines and prepares most of the equipment. He is as much a part of my success as I am.

### **What's been your greatest achievement in karting to date?**

I've had so many good times and met so many people. I have won State and National Championships. As I get older I'm realise there is more to karting than just winning races. I guess my greatest achievement is being able to help out others (particularly

juniors and kids) in the sport and seeing them progress and improve. I get a buzz out of that these days.

### **Tell us about your upcoming trip to Spain for the IAMI World Challenge**

It's an endurance race against 14 "Karting" countries where drivers will represent their country in teams of three. I'm in the Australian Team with two other high quality drivers who are hoping our team can win. Australia is right up there when it comes to karting so I'm itching to get on the track and get down to business.

### **Do you have plans to do any other type of racing eg. Aussie racing cars, formula one etc?**

I have missed the Aussie Racing Cars very much but it was a bit of a gamble doing it because I (and mostly Dad) couldn't afford it. We were very fast towards the end and it was a great experience. I learnt a lot of new skills too but unfortunately the funds dried up and sponsors are very hard to come by. I'm always trying to get back into it and I'm often invited back.

### **What do you enjoy about living in Emerald?**

It's nice and quiet out here. The people are very friendly and there is some really fun things to do. Emerald is growing fairly rapidly due to the mining boom but I think its always going to be a nice country town.

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

Sometimes I see some of some of the boys around town and always enjoy catching up and "getting the goss." It's a small world and I'm sure I'll see them all again sometime.

## Service Register October 2008

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 October.

38 years Vic Camm

32 years Dick Garrett

30 years Cheryl Jackson,  
Larry Brushe,

29 years Rod Brown, Michael Richters,  
Brian O'Sullivan,

27 years Noel Cleary,

26 years Garth Liddell,  
Peter Vouvoulis,  
Selwyn Palmer,

25 years Greame Timson,

24 years Bruce Green

21 years Bruce Janson

18 years Bruce Slatter,  
Barry Albeck,  
Neil Grother,  
Glen Kiernan

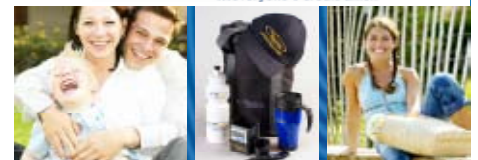
## Spread the ECU Australia message & be rewarded!

Are you happy with the service you get from ECU Australia, well refer a new member ..... and we'll give you a gift to say thanks.

So if you're happy, tell someone .... and make sure they let us know who referred them. Your thank-you gift will be on its way

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