

## Engineering Conference Tackles Climate Change

Engineers from around Australia converged on Gladstone last month for the Engineers Australia Central Region Conference.

The event was sponsored by NRG and themed “Dealing with an Inconvenient Future.” During the conference a range of speakers discussed the changing nature of engineering and industry that will result from the corporate and government response to climate change.

In his introductory speech to the conference NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn “Shoey” Schumacher said the electricity industry both in Australia and around the world faced new and demanding challenges.

“In a world with a growing hunger for energy, NRG recognises the shortcomings in how traditionally much of that energy has been supplied. There is no doubt that the size of the challenge that the electricity industry faces in meeting the growing demand for energy whilst finding solutions to its role in climate change, is the most daunting that the industry has faced in its 126 year industry. However NRG sees the success in finding such

solutions as being important, not just for those who work within the electricity industry and their customers, but for all of us,” Shoey said.

Rio Tinto Alcan Climate Change Manager, Margarita Johnson told the conference that while Australia contributed 1.45% to global carbon output to do it alone would result in grave damage to the economy. She highlighted the need for a global approach to the problem.



*Martin Thomas, Kylie Parker and Tim Danby didn't mind lending a hand at the Engineers Australia Central Queensland Conference held at the CQ University Gladstone campus.*

## National Ride to Work Day

The National Ride to Work Day proved a big hit with NRG employees with 38 employees taking up the challenge to ride their bike to work.



*Rebecca and Graeme Sparrow know how to keep the magpies at bay.*

All those who rode were rewarded with a healthy breakfast when they arrived on site. With magpie nesting season upon us some employees took the opportunity to wear their most colourful headwear which probably frightened off more onlookers than the magpie population.

Wellness committee member and regular cyclist Doug Thomas said the promotion was all about encouraging people to adopt a more active lifestyle.

“We provided employees with reflective vests and a healthy breakfast to encourage them to take up the challenge so hopefully many of them will continue to ride on a regular basis,” Doug said.

Specific task mechanical fitter Michael Jess who chose to ride in from Tannum Sands, said

the promotion was an excellent idea to encourage people to do more exercise.

Outside of work Michael regularly rides from Tannum to Bororen or from Tannum to Lake Awoonga. Twice a year he also participates in a Gladstone to Rockhampton bike ride.

“It all helps to keep the joints moving freely and keep the fitness levels up,” Michael said.

*Jan Borg and Kevin Johnson enjoyed a hearty breakfast after the bike ride.*



## From Shoey's Desk Working Together

Dear Folks

Earlier this year I had a great opportunity to get around the station and present Employee Information Sessions to you entitled GLADSTONE POWER STATION – OUR FUTURE. The aim of these sessions was to give you an opportunity to hear about what is happening in the business as well as providing you an important opportunity to ask questions about what is going on. During those sessions I used a Row Boat as an illustration of my view that if we were to make sure that we had a future here at GPS we ALL needed to work together.

Now you might happen to think my use of a Row Boat is silly. While that might be the case however, it is my way of trying to get the message across that we are facing a lot of challenges and that we need to work together. So, what are some of the challenges? Well here are a few:

- An ageing plant that has become unreliable
- An ageing workforce and a future loss of knowledge
- Climate Change driving a view that coal fired power stations do not have a future

- NRG's desire to sell out of GPS – changed ownership
- Changing community expectations
- Increasing costs and uncertainties in areas such as coal
- And now economic uncertainty

I must admit I have been a bit surprised just how quickly the last point has started to affect us. In the past few weeks I have started to see significant changes in how people are dealing with issues based on a significantly less optimistic view of the immediate future.

There is no doubt that we are all in for an interesting time but, we need to try and stay focused on building a future for Gladstone Power Station. We need to get reliability back in our plant and keep it that way.

### GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards  
**SHOEY**  
Glenn Schumacher  
General Manager



## James Wins NRG Student of the Year Service Award

Gladstone State High School Year 12 student James Black was this year's recipient of the NRG Student of the Year Service Award.

The award was presented to James at the recent Gladstone State High School Awards night held at the Entertainment Centre.

The award acknowledged James' outstanding contribution to the community. A school spokesperson said James had unselfishly given his time to many service projects including the blood bank, band fundraisers, Clean-up Australia Day, Relay for Life, Rotary fundraisers and the Harbour Festival Street Parade to name just a few. James was presented with a perpetual glass trophy and a personal trophy to acknowledge his achievement.

As well as Gladstone State High School, NRG also sponsors awards at Toolooa, Tannum Sands, St Stephens Lutheran College and Mt Larcom High Schools.

*Manager Maintenance, Martin Thomas presents Gladstone State High School Year 12 student James Black with the NRG Student of the Year Service Award. (Photo by Stephen Mills Photography)*

# GPS REC CLUB Christmas Party

- Prawns
- Main Meal  
Chicken, Fish or Wagyu Beef
- Selection of Desserts
- Free Soft Drink & Juice
- \$1 Beers
- \$1 Spirits

**Lucky Door Prizes Galore!**

**Win a Holiday to Heron Island!**

(Prize details go to be confirmed)

ALL Rec Club Members will be entered into this draw  
Win a bonus \$200 if you attend the Christmas Party

**Friday 28 November**  
**6.00pm to Midnight**  
**Queens Steakhouse Restaurant**

**Tickets \$10 each**  
Available from Kat (723)  
Lynda (256) & Mung (730)  
Ticket sales close 25 November

\* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \*

# Kids' Christmas Party

Laughing Clowns!

Presents & Lolly Bags for the Kids!

Santa!

Cup & Saucer Ride!

Icy Cold Slushie Drinks!

Mini Jeeps!

Face Painting!

Delicious Dogwood Dogs!

**Sunday 7 December**  
**12.00pm to 3.00pm**  
**Western Suburbs Swimming Pool**

12.00pm-1.00pm ..... BBQ Lunch

1.15pm.....Santa Arrives

1.30pm.....Gifts

\* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \* REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY \*

## Twenty Five Year Club Dinner



The NRG Twenty Five Year Club dinner held on 17 October at the Grand Hotel was a great success with 107 people attending the function.

The dinner is held every year for employees who have worked for NRG at Gladstone and have achieved 25 years of continuous service in the Queensland Electricity Industry.

Master of Ceremonies Archie Lowe, introduced the ten new members to the club while giving an historical overview of events from 25 years ago. Members enjoyed the informal social atmosphere and the opportunity to reminisce with former and current workmates about old times in the industry. Bernie's DJ proved a popular choice providing excellent dance music throughout the night.

The new members for 2008 are Ray Sumner, Keith Brown, John McGarrow, Garry Coleborn, David Tompkins, John Illingsworth, Howard Thomson, Stephen Thefs, Leonard Quinn and Greame Timson.

New 25 Year Club member Keith Brown said the dinner was a great opportunity to catch up with former workmates and people outside of your own workgroup.

Thanks to Dave Greinke Paul Borchardt, Archie Lowe, Tony Frazer, Kevin Johnson and Gary Macnamara for organising the event.



## Apprentice Achievement Awards

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

In his presentation to the group General Manager Glenn "Shoey" Schumacher acknowledged the award winners and praised them for their consistently high standard and dedication to their trade.

"Becoming a tradesperson is an important step in your career. The skills, knowledge and experience you have learned here will hold you in good stead for the future but this is only the start of a period of life long learning. The electricity industry is facing some major challenges in our future and the key to meeting the challenges is our people, their skills, knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm. You are among those people who can and must use your abilities to addressing the challenges we face. You have a great opportunity and an important role," Shoey said.

Shoey also acknowledged the importance of our tradespeople who have supported the apprentices throughout their training.

"Our apprentices are highly regarded by outside industries as they typically demonstrate a commitment to working safely as well as high skill levels," he said.

Acting Specialist Maintenance Training Kate Williams 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 Joel Caughey, while the Electrical High Achievement Award was presented to Mitch Duckham and Craig Gultzow who tied for the award. All three 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 Ryan Pickels (first year), Cameron Smith (second year), Lindsay Mann (third year) and Craig Gultzow (fourth year).

Mechanical Apprentice of the Year Award winners were Brodie Huth (first year), Trent Hall (second year), Luke Halliwell (third year) and Michael Duggan (fourth year). Each apprentice received a \$100 voucher for the purchase of tools or books.

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

The Bruce Prendergast Merit Award was presented to fourth year apprentice Mitch Duckham by Colin and Kay Prendergast. This award is sponsored by the GPS Rec Club and voted on by all apprentices at GPS.



The Bruce Prendergast Memorial Award was presented to Mitchell Duckham by Kay and Colin Prendergast.



(Rear) Craig Gultzow, Luke Halliwell, Brodie Huth, Trent Hall, Joel Caughey, Mitchell Duckham (Front) Ryan Pickels, Cameron Smith, Lindsay Mann, Michael Duggan.

## Employees Encouraged to Eat More Fruit

The Wellness Committee has recently introduced another new health incentive for employees.

Wellness Committee Chairperson, Jay Wilson said the committee was providing an opportunity for all employees to eat more fruit.

The committee has set up a number of fruit bowls on a table next to the counter in the canteen with 20 pieces of free fruit available each day. The bowls will be replenished on a day-to-day basis.

"A lot of people don't get enough fruit and vegetables and this is one way of encouraging our employees to improve their diet," Jay said.

The fruit incentive will be trialled for three months and then reviewed by the Wellness Committee.

"We value any suggestions or comments from employees so feel free to contact any of the committee members whose details can be found on the front page of MARS," Jay said.



Wellness Committee member Rebecca Beatson checks out the fruit bowls in the canteen.

## Getting Personal with Maintenance Planner Michael D Holmes

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



Being my first time working in the power industry the plant has been an eye opener and just the sheer size of the station is impressive. The people are really friendly and just seem to have a relaxed atmosphere

about them.

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

I've enjoyed learning about the fuel handling process. Conveyors and trippers are something new to a fitter who is more familiar with Warman Centrifugal Pumps. It takes a bit to get my head around this equipment.

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

Everyone treats you like one of the team. You are welcomed in and they make you feel like you have been here for years.

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

I spent just over 18 years at Queensland Alumina where I started as a mechanical apprentice becoming a tradesman in the precipitation area for five years. I was asked

to fill-in as Maintenance Planner for six weeks which turned into an eight year stint. I was part of the SAP Implementation Team and moved onto the Master Data Team for the Maintenance Management System in 2005, until I left in May to come here.

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

It was really time for a change. I had had enough of the Aluminium Industry. The best thing was moving on to a new career path without having to relocate the family while still doing the work that I enjoy.

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

Apart from my family, I am an active member of the State Emergency Service here in Gladstone, a committee member for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life, organiser of the CQ Charity Fun Tour 2009 and a committee member for my kids Clinton soccer team.

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

Great weather all year round and we have so much on offer right at our doorstep.

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

I was born and bred in Bundaberg, (probably why I like rum so much) and lived there until I was eight. Dad was transferred here with Repco so I finished my primary schooling at South Gladstone Primary School.

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

I met a wonderful Victorian girl, Jennifer in 1992. It wasn't love at first sight but I managed to win her heart and we started going out before moving in together. We were married in 1996 and now have two terrific boys, James now aged nine and Dirk aged seven. The boys keep us busy with their school activities, homework, swimming, soccer and scouts.

***My worst habit is...*** taking on too many extra volunteer activities.

***At home I like to cook...*** what? oh - snags on the barbie

***The best holiday I've ever been on was to...*** the Gold Coast with my family, visiting the theme parks and seeing the Broncos ticker-tape parade in Brisbane after winning the premiership in 2006. On that holiday we also got to drive the Indy track. Admittedly it was still being prepared but we drove it with the boys in the back seat following the layout in the Indy Magazine and giving me directions.

***You wouldn't know it but I'm no good at...*** keeping myself organised to do anything in plenty of time including keeping my shed sorted. I can never find anything I'm looking for which doesn't really say a lot for a Maintenance Planner.

***The hardest thing I've ever done was...*** losing my Father to cancer in 2004.

## Getting to Know Day Operator Liam Keenan

***What have you enjoyed about the operator traineeship?***

I have enjoyed the challenge of learning new skills and learning about the equipment used here at the Gladstone Power Station. I have also enjoyed meeting new people and also catching up with old friends.

***How have you found working with the other employees on the production crew?***

It has been a great experience getting to know the guys on the different shifts. It has also been good to hear about some of the past characters and the stories about the good old days from the older operators.

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

After finishing high school at Toolooa, I completed a mechanical apprenticeship at Boyne Smelters. After that I went away to sea as a marine engineer where I got to visit all the exotic ports such as Gove, Weipa, Bell Bay in Tasmania and Bluff in New Zealand. After leaving sea life I went into production and took up a role at the near finished Comalco Alumina Refinery, where I helped in the commissioning of the boilers and the calciners. After a few years there I then got the opportunity to join NRG as a ticketed operator trainee. I completed

six months training with Alan O'Rourke and Ian Sanderson and am now currently on B shift.

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

I had always planned on trying to get work at the power station after returning home as I had worked with boilers and steam turbines at sea. I also have to admit that the four on six off roster also played a part.

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

I enjoy playing touch football, working up a sweat at the gym or going for a jog, although I have been indulging a bit too much lately with the end of the footy season. I also enjoy all things fast, like motorcycles and cars.

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

I have always enjoyed the fact that in Gladstone you can always leave somewhere late and still get to where you are going early. It is not a big town to get around. I also enjoy the fact that you can bump into someone you know around town and be able to have a chat.

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

I was born in Newcastle in NSW (go the blues)

but have basically lived my life in Gladstone. I went to South Gladstone Primary School and Toolooa High.

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

I have just celebrated my sixth year anniversary with my wife Raylene and we have just learnt that we are expecting our first child. I also have a collie (that looks like lassie) that we got from the RSPCA. She is the laziest dog I know.

***Your mother or father always said to you...*** Get a haircut and get a real job, no just kidding. Nothing really comes to mind. I suppose my dad always told me to never do half a job.

***As a kid I hated...*** School and homework (didn't everyone).

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

***A song that means a lot to me is...*** I don't really have just one song. Anything from Metallica or Disturbed.

***The hardest thing I've ever done was...*** Studying for marine engineering. I am mathematically challenged.



## NRG Supports Skills Centre Project

NRG has recently provided mentoring support and training to the Gladstone Schools and Engineering Skills Centre (GSESC) as part of the School and Industry Network Adopt a School Program.

GSESC Business Manager, Liz Farrell said NRG had provided support for The Weld Well Project which gave the centre's Year 12 students the opportunity to work with industry mentors as well as build welding knowledge and skills.

NRG's involvement in the Weld Well project has included:

- A visit to the Skills Centre by Acting Maintenance Training Specialist, Kate Williams to discuss safety and the importance of safe work practices with

students, highlighting the importance of correct PPE.

- NRG apprentices, Luke Halliwell and Michael Zimmerlie demonstrating and instructing students in the use of a TIG Welder and assisting students with the construction of four portable welding stations. (Michael was a graduate of the Skill's Centre in 2006.) The materials for these stations were funded through the Adopt a School Program and will provide a valuable resource for the Skills Centre.

Liz said the purpose of the project was to increase the student's knowledge of welding technologies and skills development through safe work practices that meet industry's standards and expectations.

"We greatly appreciate NRG's support of the Skills Centre program and in particular this year's participation in our School and Industry Network – Adopt a School funded project. NRG's commitment to the Skills Centre program and the mentoring of students plays an important part in ensuring the Centre's program is providing training that meets industry's needs and work ready future engineering trades. I would like to thank Kate, Luke and Michael for their time and for sharing their knowledge and skills with our staff and students," Liz said.

Besides NRG, the Weld Well Program is also supported by Boyne Smelters Limited, BOC Limited and the Welding Technology Institute of Australia.



*NRG's Michael Zimmerlie, Kate Williams and Luke Halliwell assist GSESC students Sam Carter and Josh Little with the construction of a portable welding station.*

## Crisis Management Team put to the Test

On Wednesday 22 October, Joel Otley received a phone call from a media company, asking about an explosion in the power station. The managers and members of the Crisis Management Team then gathered in Training Rooms 1 and 2 to work out what to do next. It wasn't for real. NRG's managers and some of their specialists were rehearsing their Crisis Management practices.

"We hope we never have to use it, but we need to know the plans are in place, as well as test how well they are working," explained Specialist Safety Systems Allison Hutton.

"We are implementing updated Crisis Management arrangements. This means there will be more scenarios to practice our plans and skills this year and on into 2009," she said.

These practice scenarios do more than just test the Crisis Management Team. They also give opportunities to the actors and scriptwriters amongst us. Hidden talent emerged during this exercise from actors Darryl Phillips and Paul Van der List, as well as future script writer Lindsay Prizeman, whose technical input was essential in making the scenario relevant to the Gladstone Power Station.

## ZIP Pilot Programme Underway

NRG Managers and Superintendents gathered together at the Basement Playhouse at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre last month to undertake the first half of a Zero Incident Process (ZIP) Pilot Programme.

The ZIP program is a safety-based programme which is being considered for GPS. If the pilot programme is considered successful, ZIP will be progressively rolled out to all workgroups in 2009.

As our safety culture is continually evolving and there are many tools on the market which can help us achieve our goal of a zero injury workplace. Specialist Safety Systems

Allison Hutton said finding the right tools for the NRG Safety Program was essential.

"It is not just about 'flavour-of-the-month' programmes, but about having the right safety tools and programmes which will help us make the next steps in safety improvement. ZIP is one of the options we are looking at right now. The program is designed to empower people to take control of their personal safety by becoming more effective within the systems they work in," Allison said.

The Managers and Superintendents will now attend the second half of the Pilot Programme in November.

## Fabric Filter Pilot Plant Demolished

As part of the hazard reduction programme the fabric filter pilot plant on Unit 1 was recently demolished.

Superintendent Ancillary Projects, Larry Brushe said that the removal of the plant had made the area safer as over the years had deteriorated and was becoming a hazard due to corrosion. Visibility on the busy corner opposite the stores had also been improved he said.

Prior to the conversion of the first precipitator to a fabric filter a pilot plant was built on Unit 1 in 1994. The initial purpose of this plant was to test the performance of the filter bags proposed for the new plant. During this testing it was found that the proposed bag material would not be suitable for the Gladstone boilers and an alternate material was trialled. The material tested OK and was installed on the first filters.

“At the time the intention was to utilise the pilot plant for testing of other bag materials throughout the life of the plant and to ensure that the bags purchased would always perform successfully in the filters. Shortly after the first fabric filter was commissioned it was found that the bags were shrinking in service. The shrinking was so severe that the manifolds that clean the bags were prevented from rotating which caused the bags to clog. This was a regular occurrence and each time it happened the plant had to be taken out of service for repairs,” Larry said.

“Not only did we have to identify the cause of this problem but we had to find a means to quickly overcome the problem. Pulses of



*The fabric filter pilot plant was recently demolished as part of the hazard reduction program.*

compressed air are used to clean the bags. Using the pilot plant to better understand this process a modification to the cleaning mechanism was developed and tested. When installed on the main filters it not only allowed the plant to operate, until a solution to the shrinkage problem was found, but actually increased the efficiency of the cleaning process,” Larry explained.

At this time in Australia visible emissions from power stations were a serious issue and the technology behind the fabric filter installed at Gladstone was still being optimised. The CSIRO were actively

involved in this research and they developed technology that allowed the bag testing to be done more accurately in the main filters. Monitoring equipment was set up on Unit 5 fabric filter that could monitor up to six different bag types simultaneously with the data automatically analysed remotely by the CSIRO in Sydney.

The pilot plant was only able to monitor two bag types in a largely manual process. Superseded early in its life by better technology the pilot plant was never used again.

## NRG Ladies Support Pink Ribbon Day

A group of NRG ladies showed their support for a worthy cause by attending the Pink Ribbon Breakfast held at the Gladstone Golf Club on 17 October.

The 16 ladies who attended were among a group of 130 people to support the fundraiser organised by the Gladstone Branch of the Queensland Cancer Council.

Queensland Cancer Council volunteer Cheryl Jackson who organised the NRG group was happy with the support shown by the NRG ladies and from NRG management who gave the group the time off to attend the function.

“The function raised over \$3,000 for breast cancer research and we were very pleased with the support we received from NRG in allowing us to attend,” Cheryl said.



*Our ladies enjoyed the Pink Ribbon Breakfast at the Golf Club.*

## Where are they now? – Wes Machen

*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.*

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

Dec 1979 - May 1999

**What was your role at the station and who are the other people you worked with in your section?**

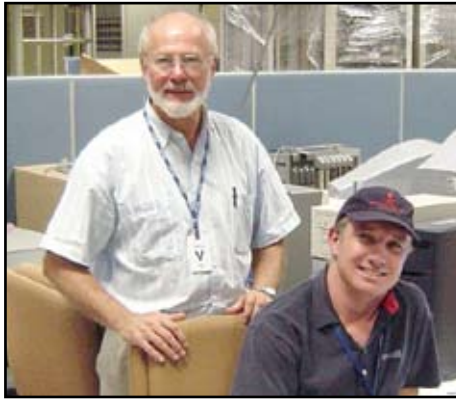
- Apprentice Electrician: 1980 - 1983
- Unit Technician: 1984 -1987
- Plant Improvement Project (PIP) Technician: 1987-1990
- Control Systems Upgrade - Design Officer: 1990-1992
- Controls Systems Upgrade - Unit Team Leader: 1993-1996
- Technical Specialist - Control Systems: 1997-1999
- Owners Rep Collinsville PS: 1998-1999

I have great memories working with fine people such as Don Kerr, Keith Whitby, John James, Daryl Bond, Steve Lewis, Steve Thefs, Glenn Wortel, Rob Gardiner, Jim Sjoberg, John Illingsworth, Alan Armour, Bob Pirie, Kev Ryan and many more on the technical side. On the operations side it was great to work with Mark Moran, Owen Briske, Nev O'Connor, Darryl Kropp and many others.

**What are your fondest memories of working at the station?**

Easily the most fulfilling role was being part of the Control System Upgrade Project.

We learned so much about what we could do ourselves (coming out of the PIP days) and realising that collectively we knew more about our plant than almost any contractor and what it could be if the money was spent in the right places. An in-house project on this scale will probably never happen again anywhere but I will never forget the courage and determination of Don Kerr to see that the upgrade was handled by us and not head office in Mary Street, Brisbane. I am forever grateful for the privilege.



*Wes is pictured with former Foxboro mentor Rob Henery.*

Easily one of the funniest things I can recall was when Mark Moran and I unveiled the Sequence Start up Schedule (BTRU) for a unit in front of the Foxboro "expert" during the contract negotiation stage. The gob smacked look on his face was priceless. They'd never heard of anyone thinking about it, let alone trying it.

**Tell us about your days playing cricket with the GPS team.**

We started off as a single team and ended with two teams including an "A" grade team in the local competition. With Wayne and Russell Watson and myself, and Glen Wroe and his son Tony, we were often quite a family team. We won the reserve grade premiership a few times but the "A" grade experience was not so successful. Without any juniors to come into the ranks it became too hard to field a team. I finished my days of cricket with over 10 years on the board of Gladstone Cricket Association, becoming the first President of the newly incorporated Gladstone Cricket Inc.

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

I miss complaining about the 10 minute drive to work. I rarely see my mum & dad or my sister these days. I have averaged 10 months on overseas projects for the past four years. (I've flown in to Singapore over 160 times.) I also miss working with people

who generally have the same work ethic and experience.

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

Other than living in seat 22C on a 777 aircraft, I have worked on many really interesting projects. My current project is for the controls of a large combined cycle plant in the Kimberly region in West Australia. I have designed, built and commissioned the controls for the Cogeneration Plant in BP Refinery Brisbane, the Boiler/Turbine/BOP controls and sequences for Castle Peak B Power Plant (4 x 750MW) in Hong Kong, the Power Generation Controls (of 13 Frame 6 GE gas turbines) in the largest gas plant in the world in QATAR, and recently designed and commissioned the controls for a brand new Supercritical 600MW plant in Wisconsin. (It's almost the same as the Millmerran units.) Regrettably the last job involved being stuck there for their winter, (88ft of snow accumulated over the winter.) During the coldest day it hit -38F. With another 25F taken off for wind chill, that's about -52C.

**What do you enjoy about living in Brisbane?**

I guess I haven't been there enough to find out. My family and I live on a two and a half acres set in Koala country in Redland Bay. On a good day you can be in the city centre in 30 minutes.

When I am able I try to keep my hockey game up to speed. Playing in the Vets competition here is very competitive.

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

I checked into my favourite hotel one night on arriving in Singapore, went down to breakfast the next morning and sat down next to an astonished Glen Wortel, whom had also checked in the night before. Talk about small world. We're good mates and old Asia hands now. One time, we even had Russell Ivers there with us. There was plenty of beer and bull\*\*\*\* that night. I've met up with John and Bernadette James a few times. For a while I kept up with my mate Mark Moran but he turned into a crow eater. But sadly I don't see many of the old faces anymore.

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

Sue and I put our kids into a private school near our home. Sue has taken a position there as Science Laboratory Assistant and enjoys the work. Sonya, who is 21, did two years at Gatton College and is now in JCU in Townsville. Peta (18,) is set to become an airline Hostess while Lewis is in Grade 8 and enjoys playing Rugby.

### Service Register – November 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 November.*

31 years	Wayne Franks	27 years	Darryl Kropp, John Barnes
30 years	Michael Palmer, Trevor Pearce	24 years	Gary Underdown, John Deno
29 years	Tony Harris	15 years	Cameron Poole
28 years	Graham Sparrow, Ivan Robinson, Cheryl O'Callaghan, David Greinke	13 years	Pauline Sagnol