

NRG GladRag

A.C.N. 061 519 275

May 2009

Top Job Takes out Most Creative Prize

Well it may have taken eleven years but NRG has finally cracked one of the major prizes at the Gladstone Harbour Festival NRG Great Raft Race.

The NRG raft, "Top Job 2" featuring the turbine hall and power station stacks took home the "Most Creative Raft" which brought with it prize money of \$1,500.

Congratulations to the crew of Luke Halliwell, Jeremy Johnson, Michael Zimmerlie, Craig McGuinness, Bill Taylor, Kris Ivermee, Jamie McLean, Luke Richards, Kelly Searston and Rohan Phelps who spent many hours preparing the raft for the event.

Spokesperson for the team, Luke Halliwell was ecstatic in taking out the major award.

"We thought we had a pretty good raft this year but we never expected to take out the big one. I'm looking at buying a house soon so my share of the prize money will come in handy," Luke said.

Luke also wished to thank one of his mates, Chris Reardon who filled in for one of the team members who was unable attend.

A record equalling twenty five rafts featuring vikings, scary fairies and Easter bunnies

paddled their way around the course in front of a huge crowd lining the banks of Auckland Creek.

The race kicked off in front of the Gladstone Yacht Club with participants hurling water and flour bombs at each other ensuring a fun time was had by all. (More action photos on page 4.)



NRG's raft "Top Job 2" went on to take out the Most Creative Award at this year's Gladstone Harbour Festival NRG Great Raft Race.

Senate Select Committee Visits GPS



Unit Controller, Bob Pirie was happy to talk to members of the Australian Government Senate Select Committee on Fuel and Energy during their visit to the station.

Three Senators from the Australian Government Senate Select Committee on Fuel and Energy, Senator Mathias Cormann, Senator Ian Macdonald and Senator Mark Furner toured GPS last month on a familiarisation visit.

Earlier in the morning the group had attended a formal hearing where a number of local businesses and organisations presented information on the likely impacts of emissions trading on Gladstone.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry includes the impact of emissions trading. This part of the inquiry will culminate in May with a report to be presented to the Senate.

The party of Senators and their secretariats were impressed with the station and appreciated learning about it's workings.

Production Manager, Joel Otley said the Senators demonstrated a keen interest in the business and asked relevant and pertinent questions regarding the impact of impending climate change legislation.

Observation Point

A mechanical Specialist went to the Gladstone Marina to hold a barbecue for his troops in recognition of their safety achievement. Seems he arrived at the marina loaded up with the food and drinks but forgot the most important thing - the barbecue.

Cancer Council Markets Shopping Tour

The Gladstone Branch of the Queensland Cancer Council is holding a markets shopping tour on 5-6 September. The tour will take in the Eumundi Markets, Maroochydore Sunshine Plaza, Maleny Cheese Factory and Shopping at Montville. Cost of the trip is \$150 and bookings and enquiries can be made by calling Andrea on Ph 4978 0376.

Extended Handrails Fitted to Id Fan Outlet Dampers

New extended handrails near the Induced Draft fans will reduce the potential for injury for employees who are required to carry out maintenance in the area, according to Units Mechanical Superintendent, Guy Ayscough.

The Units Mechanical workgroup had identified potential hazards while accessing the ID Fan outlet dampers.

"A risk assessment was completed to determine the risk of the existing rails from the fan motor to the outlet damper control platform and it was found the rails were too low and there was potential for people to fall from the stairway," Guy said.

Guy said the existing handrails did not meet the current Australian standard so it was necessary to modify the rails. The existing handrails have now been modified on all six units.



Specific Task Safety Officer, Sarah Maynard checks out the new guard rails which will improve safety around the ID fans.

From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

In the current ever changing economic environment it is becoming more difficult to look towards the long term future. However, whilst we must be practical and focus upon getting through the the current down turn, I am of the view that we cannot afford to lose sight of the future of GPS. Our Vision Statement sets out our view for the future of GPS as follows:



"We will be the operator and maintainer of choice for this power station for the duration of it's life.

We fulfil this Vision through operating and maintaining this power station in a safe, reliable, responsible and sustainable manner.

We do this through the application of the skills, knowledge, experience and drive of our people."

It is this last paragraph that I would like to focus on for a moment. In thinking about the future and the challenges that we as GPS face, and indeed the challenges that we as the Electricity Industry face, we need people who are knowledgeable, empowered, enthusiastic and capable.

Indeed, we need to be thinking about how we here today are generating the people who have the potential to be the future leaders in our Industry. Of course the next generation is smarter, more knowledgeable, and indeed potentially more capable for they are the inheritors of all that has gone before them.

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Sir Isaac Newton, In a letter to Robert Hooke, English mathematician & physicist (1642 - 1727). February 5, 1675.

So, what things are we now doing at GPS to help build our people and those who might come along behind us in the next generation, their knowledge and skills for the future? Well, the list of things includes:

1. Supporting our employees in obtaining Associate Degrees in Maintenance Management and Engineering, Degrees in Technology, MBAs and Advanced Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering.
2. Running a comprehensive Front-Line Leadership training program for our aspiring and new Supervisors.
3. Increasing the number of trade apprentices we train (currently 33).
4. We have on the Gladstone Power Station site the Gladstone Schools Engineering Skills Centre which we are actively supporting. The GSESC is linking a number of the local high schools with industry.
5. Supporting Engineering Under-Graduate Vacation employment at Gladstone.
6. Involvement in the CQ University Engineering Co-Op Program.
7. We have re-started our Engineering Graduate Program.
8. We have a number of non-engineering trainees (accounting, administration etc).
9. We have accelerated the GPS Unit Operator Training Program with six candidates currently training.
10. We have a number of our people taking part in the Power Generation Skills Development Program at Graduate Diploma and Masters Degree level. NRG has been actively supporting this program.
11. Work experience placements.

Lets us keep building a future for ourselves.

Regards
SHOEY

Glenn Schumacher
GENERAL MANAGER

Climate Change Specialist Visits GPS

Managers and Superintendents were treated to a very informative session last month from climate change specialist Dr Harry Schaap.

Dr Schaap works as a policy advisor for the National Generators Forum, an industry body representing the 21 major power generators in Australia's National Electricity Market. The group have a strong interest in the development of energy and climate change policies which impact on electricity generation.

During his two hour presentation Dr Schaap discussed the legislation and implications for coal fired power stations which will result from the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) which is now expected to be introduced in July 2011.

The main focus of the scheme is on emissions trading whereby the federal government will set a limit on how much carbon industry can release. The government will sell permits up to that limit creating an incentive for companies to look for cleaner energy options.

Dr Schaap said that moving to a low carbon economy would be difficult given that 80% of Australia's electricity comes from coal fired power stations.

He said that the 5% emissions reduction target set for 2020 as outlined in the CPRS legislation will actually be a 23% reduction

based on 2000 levels. Currently Australia produces 1.3 % of global carbon emissions with the major contributors being the United States, China, Brazil and India.

Dr Schaap said a new Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting (OSCAR) had been set up to record energy, waste and greenhouse data for government reporting. Under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) generators like GPS that produce

greenhouse gas emissions will need to report to NRGERS using the OSCAR web based software.

GPS has established a Climate Change Committee to manage these issues which revolve around the obligation to report emissions and the liability to acquire and acquit emissions permits. The committee consists of four managers and five specialists.



Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Community, George Bennetts and Specialist Production Commercial, Tim Danby were keen to discuss climate change with Dr Harry Schaap.

Design Work Completed on New Generator

In September 2008 NRG entered into a contract with Siemens to build a spare generator stator and rotor for the Gladstone units following the failure of Unit 2 in 2006. The spare will be interchangeable with any of the six machines at Gladstone and will also act as the rotatable spare when it

becomes necessary to rewind the existing generators.

Manager Major Projects, Steve Lewis said the new generator will have the same connection points as the existing generators but will be built to a new design as the modern materials for insulation and

heat transfer are physically smaller for the same properties.

"The design of the new generator has now been completed and construction of the generator outer case and rotor forging is well underway," Steve said.

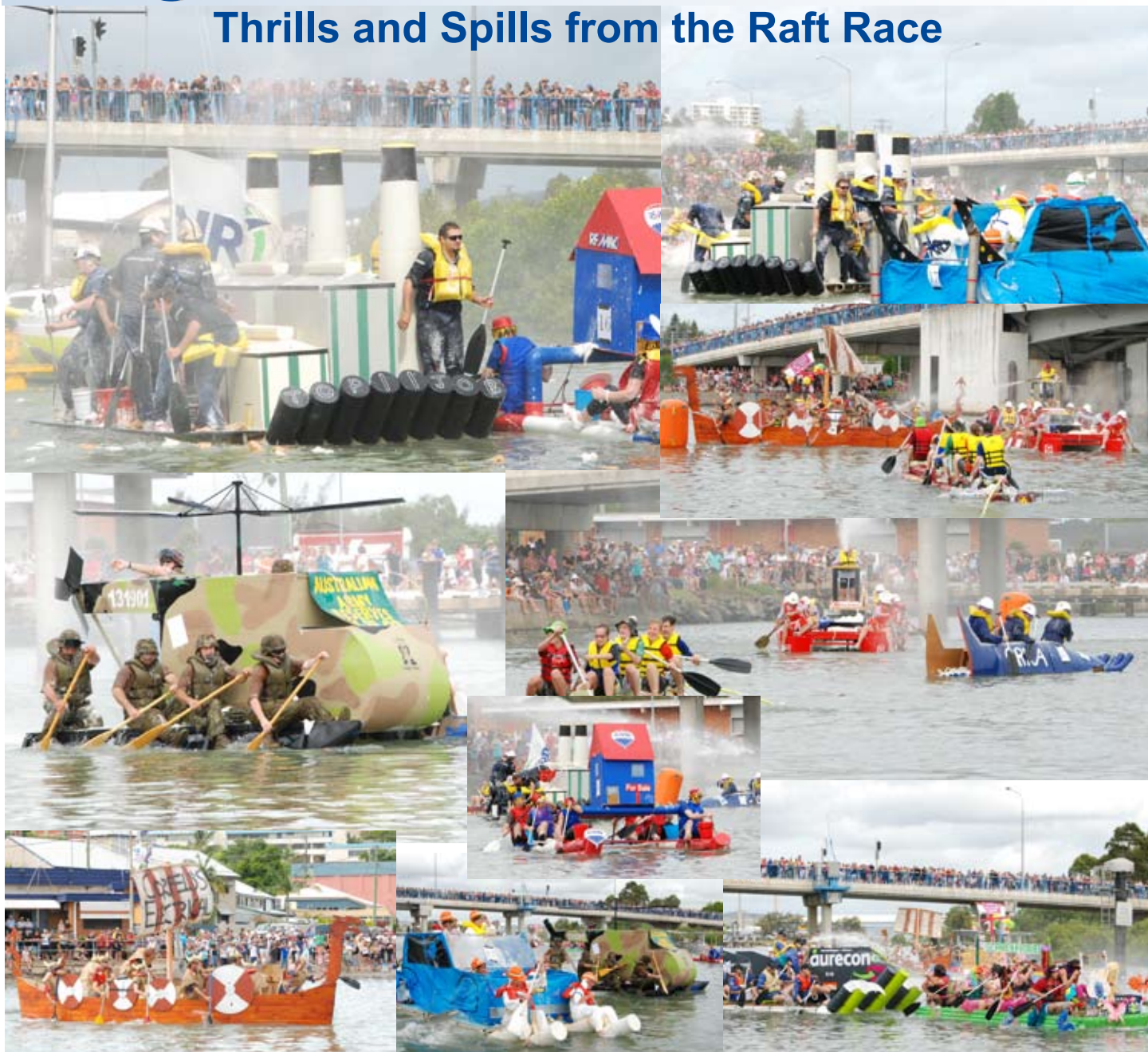
The photo at left shows the generator outer casing under construction at a Siemens subcontractor in Hungary. Other parts being manufactured presently are the generator core at the Siemens Erfurt Plant in the old East Germany and the rotor forging at a subcontractor's works in Germany.

Once all the individual components are manufactured they will be moved to the Siemens Muelhiem factory near Düsseldorf with the final assembly of the machine commencing in September 2009. Presently final testing is scheduled for June 2010 and due to arrive by sea at Auckland Point wharf Gladstone in November 2010.



The outer casing of the generator is currently under construction at a Siemens subcontractor in Hungary.

Thrills and Spills from the Raft Race



NRG Supports Gladstone Industry Leadership Group

NRG is supporting an industry group which aims to build a positive and open relationship between industry and the community.

The Gladstone Industry Leadership Group (GILG) was officially launched in December 2008 to address concerns about air emissions and community health.

GILG is comprised of five member companies - BSL, NRG, QAL, Rio Tinto Alcan and Cement Australia. The group's General Managers make up the GILG Board.

Each of the companies has signed a Code of Conduct with a commitment to continuous improvement in the areas of health, safety and the environment and openly sharing that information with Gladstone community.

The group recognises that satisfying community concerns is vital to industry's long term future and as a result GILG's main priority is to improve industry's community engagement, environmental transparency and accountability for their performance.

One of the first priorities for the group has been to resolve community concerns over health risks from air emissions. While all industries have made significant plant improvements over the years it is recognised that more can be done to help make Gladstone a better place to live and work.

GILG is planning to improve community consultation through an Environmental Transparency Framework which contains a number of initiatives to improve the way industry listens to and provides feedback to community needs.

Kurt Heidecker has been appointed as the Interim CEO of GILG and a website has been established to provide information to the public. The site can be found at www.gilg.com.au

To help build awareness of GILG and its initiatives an Environmental Sub-Committee and Community Relations Sub-Committee has been set up. NRG has representation on both these committees.

Employees Learn about Driver Fatigue

NRG employees were given a graphic insight into the social and economic costs associated with road accidents following a driver fatigue awareness program conducted by Scott Thorburn and Dave Russo from the Road Accident Action Group based in Mackay.

As fire fighters both Scott and Dave regularly attend road accidents and have seen first hand the carnage and trauma caused by drivers who fail to heed the message on driver fatigue.

During the two hour sessions Scott and Dave covered a range of topics including

- The major causes of road accidents
- The factors contributing to driver fatigue
- The symptoms of fatigue
- The effects of micro sleeps
- The consequences associated with a fatigue accident
- The importance of planning your trip

With many years of experience in dealing with road accidents Scott and Dave presented some alarming statistical information relating to road accidents in Central Queensland and Australia.

Driving a car is the most dangerous thing we do representing around 25.6% of all deaths and serious injury in Australia. Around 1,600 people die on Australian roads each year with around 330 of those coming from Queensland. During the past five years 268

people have died on Central Queensland roads which is more than two and a half times the state average.

Scott pointed out that many fatigue accidents happened between 5-7am and 2-4pm so it was important that drivers planned their trips to incorporate rest breaks along the way.

The sessions were well received by the workgroups who appreciated the practical information to help improve their awareness of driver fatigue.



Paul Adamson was interested to learn more about driver fatigue from Scott Thorburn and Dave Russo from the Road Accident Action Group.

Rec Club Weekend at Cania Gorge

The third GPS Rec Club weekend campout at Cania Gorge was a great success with 46 people enjoying a relaxing weekend at the tourist park.

While many people chose to camp in their own camper vans and trailers others preferred to stay in the luxury of the self contained cabins.

Throughout the weekend members had the opportunity to indulge in a wide variety of activities including bird feeding, bushwalking, wine tasting, fishing, kayaking, tennis, golf and family movies. For many the highlight of the weekend was toasting marshmallows

around the open camp fire but for one feathered friend, dinner time was a good opportunity to snooze the night away.

During the weekend the kids kept themselves busy by riding bikes, swimming, playing tennis, football and golf.

Rec Club Vice President Archie Lowe said he was impressed by the manners and behaviour of the children and the way they supported each other throughout the weekend.

Archie was also thankful to committee members Jason Taylor and John Leinster and the parents who pitched in to help with the cooking of the meals and cleaning up afterwards.



Grant and Cooper Sutherland enjoyed feeding the lorikeets at Cania Gorge.



Rob and Wendy Sweeney, Kathy, Dave and Liam Allen and Archie and Janet enjoyed exploring the Shamrock Mine equipment while at Cania Gorge.

New I-Trak System Up and Running

The vehicle identification system known as I-Trak was recently upgraded to provide a more reliable service for the station. The system is part of the site security system and is used to track vehicle entries to site and match drivers to vehicles.

The system has a transmitter which is located in each vehicle that enters site. There is one receiver for entry and one for exit. The transmitter in each car is powered by an internal battery and emits a unique signal every 1.5 seconds. The receivers are tuned so that they only receive the signal from a vehicle approaching the reader.

Control Systems Technical Officer, John Illingsworth said the old system, which was installed in March 2006, had been failing due to problems with the transmitter batteries since late 2007.

“The new system uses transmitters that have an improved battery life. The battery life of the new transmitters is guaranteed for three years with an expected life of five years,” John said.

John and Greg Mollenhauer of ADT Security installed the

new receivers and tuned the pickup range to ensure only vehicles approaching a receiver were detected.

Bianca Nathan has coded the new transmitters to the vehicle details and as part of the process of issuing the new transmitters, Administration Services is also conducting a review of the contractors’ vehicles permitted to enter site.



John Illingsworth and ADT Security technician, Gregory Mollenhauer fine tune the new I Track system.

John Leinster Chalks up 25 Years

Units Electrical Test and Calibration Technician, John Leinster has come a long way in his working career since growing up on the Atherton Tableland, near Cairns.

Born in Malanda, John started his working career as an apprentice electrician for



John has been an active member of the GPS team since joining the station 25 years ago.

a small contractor in Mareeba. After completing his apprenticeship he continued to work for several more contractors at the Malanda Milk factory and in Cairns.

In 1979 he joined the Babinda Sugar Mill where he worked as a shift electrician for three and a half years.

“Babinda was a great place to live and the mill had a great variety of work and except for the fact that it was in financial difficulty I would still be there now,” John said.

After leaving the mill John went to Toowoomba to study for a year before joining GPS in 1984.

Moving into the Control Systems area John got to work with many supervisors including Trevor Heard, Keith Whitby, Greg Powe, Jim Sjoberg, Graham Long, Alf Matjac, Ian Talty and Brian Green.

Since 1988 John has enjoyed his role as Test and Calibration Technician in the Units Electrical area.

“When I first took on the role it was a new position and I spent a lot of time setting up the test and calibration system to fit with quality assurance principles. I like the fact

that when testing or repairing test equipment the job rarely drags on for long so you can see a result for your efforts quickly,” John explained.

John said he still found it hard to believe that he had achieved 25 years at GPS.

“When I’d been here for 18 months turnover was high and a workmate, Don Burke asked me how long I expected to be here. When I replied two years, Don suggested I would be here until I retired. Well here I am 25 years later and still going strong,” John enthused.

During his time at GPS John has always sought to broaden his involvement by taking on additional responsibilities as a radiation officer, emergency response team member and the treasurer’s role for the Gladstone Community Charities Fund. He has also been an active participant in many NRG community events such as the Clean-up Australia Day, Relay for Life and Ecofest.

Outside of work John has continued his community involvement through his interests in the United Soccer Club, the Gladstone Roadrunners and St Vincent De Paul.

Farewell Ib Ottesen



Garry Coleborn presented Ib Ottesen with a photo of the station at Ib's farewell presentation.

After nearly 27 years at GPS, Purchasing Officer Ib Ottesen has decided to hang up the work boots.

Ib and his wife have retired to Yamanto (near Ipswich) to be closer to their two daughters and three grandchildren.

Ib moved to Gladstone in 1970 after emigrating from Denmark. He then spent 11 years at QAL working as a laboratory shift technician before deciding to move on from the shift work.

Joining GPS in July 1982 as storeman, Ib initially worked in the main store but also spent time in the tools and control systems stores. He was promoted to the position of Purchasing Officer in 1987 working for Garry Coleborn who coincidentally remains his supervisor at the current time.

Ib said he had seen a lot of changes to the way materials were purchased and received since he first began working in the store.

"In the beginning we had a free issue system and then later we moved to a paper based system. Since then we have introduced the computerised PassPort system which has made it a lot easier to control inventory and spares."

"I've always enjoyed the warehouse environment as every day there is something different happening. Purchasing and handling all the gear that goes through the warehouse has always been a bit challenging and one which I've really enjoyed," Ib said.

In his retirement Ib is planning to do a lot more gardening and reading as well as spending time taking in Brisbane cultural activities.

Ib was unable to catch up with all employees before he left but has kindly donated \$250 to the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal in lieu of not being able to make it to a happy hour.

Getting Personal with Superintendent Pulveriser Overhauls Derek Smith

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

The plant and systems itself were totally new to me. Having not previously worked in this industry I've had a very steep learning curve. The people are great and easy to get along with. Most of all they all have a sense of humour (some sicker than others) and a willingness to say G'day.

What have you enjoyed about your new role?

I've enjoyed the responsibility, the challenges and the people.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I completed my apprenticeship and another three years as a fitter and turner at the Bell Bay Smelter in Tasmania. In 1994 I moved to Queensland and had a couple of small engineering jobs before working at QAL for 14 years as a fitter, maintenance planner and maintenance supervisor.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

The people I spoke to had a lot of positive things to say about the station as a whole. I also liked being part of the new generation, growth and change and the opportunity to take the next step in my personal development.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

Being the competitive type, any of you who know my partner Kath would tell you, "I would watch marbles as long as it was on FOX Sports!" Since having to retire from playing AFL due to five knee operations I like anything that keeps me active without getting out of bed the next morning feeling like s*#t. Seriously though I enjoy golf, boating, fishing, spending time with the family and getting back in to the gym.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

I enjoy the climate, the reef, the variety of things you can do and the fact Brisbane and the Coast's aren't really that far away.

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

I was born in Launceston and did my schooling at George Town Primary and George Town High Schools. (One day I will sue the Tassie government for removal of the wrong head as the other one had hair.... so I was told).

Tell us a little bit about your family.

My partner Kath and I have an 11 year old daughter, Maddison. We also have two dogs, "Sassie", a Siberian Huskie and BJ, a Tasmanian Smithfield. Maddie and Kath have a cat. I'm the middle brother of three boys.

When I was a child I wanted to be.....Truck driver

At home I like to cook.....Just about anything, something Kath will back me up on.

A song that means a lot to me is.....I'm an "80's teenager; say no more....though it would have to be "Walk On" by U2. Just a dam good song!

The hardest thing I've ever done was.... I'm a person who believes in their abilities (some confuse with arrogance) and that you set your goals mentally. No matter how hard it is physically you should always have a go. While you may not always win you shouldn't lose sight of the lessons learned. So to answer the question it would have to be my first training session at the 1991 try-outs for the North Launceston Footy Club. It included a 15min time trial (3 km), 10 minutes rest, a second 15min time trial, followed by 10 x 400m sprints with 60 seconds rest between each one and then finally 45 mins of ball work.



NRG Kicks into Red Shield Appeal

NRG provided a major kick start to this year's Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal by donating \$5,000 to the appeal.

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn "Shoey" Schumacher presented the Salvation Army's Major Bill Hutley with the donation at this year's Red Shield Appeal launch held at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre.

Guest speaker at the launch, Queensland Fire and Rescue Services's Eddie Lacko spoke of his praise for the work of the Salvation Army.

"The Salvos are always there to look after us by making sure we get food and drink or by providing crisis debriefing when we've been through stress with our work," Inspector Lacko said.

The Salvos are hoping to raise \$109,500 from the Gladstone region with \$33,000 of that expected to come directly from the doorknock.

In Gladstone the Salvation Army has a Community Service Centre which assists people in financial crisis through food vouchers, clothing and emergency accommodation.

Where are they now? – Terry Dillon

What period did you work at the station?

I worked at the station from January 1988 to mid 2007.

Tell us about your time working as a purchasing officer and some of the other people you enjoyed working with at the time.

My first role at GPS was a supply clerk in the warehouse and over the years I was lucky enough to move up the ladder into assistant buyer roles and then purchasing and contracts. The warehouse which included purchasing, inventory and the stores had many great characters and we were always a close knit group. I enjoyed working with Tracey Wright, Lynda Casey and Michelle Holmes but there were many others who were great to work with as well. Quite a few of them have since moved on or retired.

What are your fondest memories of working at the station?

Gladstone Power Station was a good place to work, and as I had been there most of my working life you don't realise it until you leave. There was always a lot joking around in the Supply group which still brings a smile to my face. The Rec Club market trips to the Sunshine Coast organised by Kev McNeill bring back fond memories of good weekends away.

Tell us about your role on the Rec Club Committee any Rec Club functions you particularly enjoyed.

The GPS Rec Club is something that I really miss. It was great to be involved in the club. Soon after becoming a committee member, I was somehow talked into taking on the role of Treasurer after Bernie Kerin left. The

happy hours and Christmas parties were always a lot of fun.

Your Dad, John worked at the station for many years. How is he going?

Dad has been retired from GPS now for quite a few years and still going strong. He still keeps in touch with a number of people from the station. He spends a lot of time playing golf and volunteering at St Vinnies a few days a week. Mum and Dad also like to spend a lot of time looking after their grand kids.

What do you miss about living in Gladstone?

I miss the winter weather and all the friends I had there. I don't get to go back to Gladstone very much so it is difficult to keep in touch with everyone.

What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

I now work for CS Energy, at Kogan Creek Power Station near Chinchilla. As a Logistics Officer my role is similar to what I did at GPS except I also occasionally assist in the warehouse as there is just two staff in our area. For the first four months after leaving Gladstone I lived in Brisbane and then moved to Chinchilla. At the beginning of this year I bought an old Queenslander house in Chinchilla which luckily for me was fully renovated before I moved in. I have a lot of plans for it in the future. I joined the local cycling club 18 months though I haven't ridden too much recently. We used to ride, and I still do occasionally, distances anywhere from 50km to 100km every weekend. I have even competed in bike races and managed to finish in the middle of the pack. I travel to Brisbane frequently, either for work or just to keep reminding

myself what the big city life is like. Apart from that I just enjoy the country life.

What do you enjoy about living in Chinchilla?

The people in Chinchilla are some of the friendliest people I've met. It is actually a very good place to live. Before coming here I knew nothing of the place so it was a big decision to make but I am glad made the move. Plus the Chinchilla Melon Festival is also something to be seen.

Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

Yeah I do, even it is just the odd e-mail from Lynda or Pauline.



Terry is enjoying his time at Kogan Creek Power Station.

If you know of a former employee who may be interested in participating in the 'Where are they now?' feature please forward their contact details to Gary Macnamara ext 504.

John Graduates with Masters Degree

Information Services Officer, John Earl understands the importance of continuous learning having just completed his Masters in Business Administration – Information Systems through CQ University Rockhampton.

"I have been studying more or less continuously since I left high school, initially completing an undergraduate degree through James Cook University and then doing studies for vendor certification with Novell and Microsoft," he said.

John said he chose to study Business Administration to give himself a better understanding of how businesses work along with the principles of managing a large organisation.

"As well as learning about information technology, data base management and

systems analysis, I was able to focus a lot more on other broader business related areas such as finance, economics and accounting - areas that are not normally associated with my current role," John said.

John was thankful for the financial support provided by NRG and for the support provided by his wife and family during his four and a half years of study.

John was keen to gain a better understanding of business principles during his studies in Business Administration.



Service Register – May 2009

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 May.

- 32 years Ron Anderson, Allan Timm
- 27 years Jukka Heikkinen
- 26 years John Illingsworth
- 24 years Kris Neaton, Brian Courtney
- 23 years Graham Wright
- 22 years Kylie Parker
- 20 years Ray Que