

Tight Fit for Unit 4 Low Pressure Heater

This year's Unit 4 Overhaul has been a series of firsts for Gladstone Power Station and the Major Projects Department.

Manager Major Projects, Steve Lewis said the ash hopper and low pressure heater 1 (LP1) have never been replaced before at GPS.

"The replacement of the heater presented unique challenges as it was installed early in the construction process of GPS and several other pipes and valves were added once it was in place."

"The decision to change the heater came about as the number of plugged tubes had reached a critical point and the efficiency of the heat exchanger was affecting overall unit efficiency," Steve said

Once the need to change the heater was identified the question of how to actually get it out needed to be addressed. Specialist Mechanical Services, Wayne Watson led a Value Engineering study to work out this seemingly impossible task ably assisted by our most experienced rigger, Peter Van Nimwegen.

The final agreed method involved CBH constructing a slide with a turntable under the inboard end of the heater as our photo shows.

Once all the connections had been removed and with the help of Peter Van Nimwegen operating the overhead crane, CBH then carried out the removal of the heater over a three hour period. Following the removal of the old heater the process was then reversed for the installation of the new heater.



This is the first time LP heater 1 had been replaced since the station was originally built.

Proactive Approach Solves Working at Heights Issue



Gavin Donohoe and Bob Watts test the new platforms which have improved safety around the pulverisers.

A pro-active approach by the Pulveriser Overhauls Maintenance crew has addressed and solved a work at height issue that was first raised at a monthly safety meeting in March 2006.

Pulveriser Superintendent Derek Smith said the old platforms that were used to remove and install the inlet chutes and temporary lighting required having "open fall areas." This then required the use of fall restraints whilst completing the task.

Working with Rick Thomason, new platforms were designed complete with access ladders and a fully hand railed work area. The platforms and ladders, which were fabricated from aluminium and mild steel, can be easily transported and assembled on the pulverisers by forklift.

"Whilst it didn't happen overnight, this is a great example of what working together can achieve. By reducing the hazards associated with the task and demonstrating that safety is our number one priority we were able to achieve a win-win for the work team and the organisation," Derek said.

From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

With all the challenges that we currently face both within GPS (ageing plant, tight budgets, climate change) and in the wider Community (economic crisis) we can sometimes become a bit "down in the mouth" and just focus on ourselves and our current problems. Whilst we all have to be realists and get through these challenges, it is important that we do not lose sight of the "bigger picture". So, what kind of things am I talking about? Well, it is my view that we as a Community and we as a Nation need to keep a focus on building the fundamentals for our future. I am sure people inside GPS may think I have become a "broken record" with my continued discussions on the future and the need to stay focused. But, this is a far wider matter than just GPS and it is a focus of hope.

When I look at GPS, the Gladstone Community and the Electricity Industry, I see people who are out there achieving great things. Many of them are young people, but that is no excuse for those of us who may not be so young, by continuing to push our personal boundaries. We Australians are very focused upon achievement in sport and that is great. (I for one am just hanging out for Port Adelaide Power's next AFL Premiership! That is real football by the way!!). However, a Community, a Nation, cannot be just built upon achievements on the sports field, and we as a Nation are often not aware of our successes and our potential in other fields such as Science and Engineering. For example did you

know that 10 Australians have won the Nobel Prize including Howard Florey who is credited with the discovery of penicillin.

Well, not too many of us are going to win the Nobel Prize. But, we each can make a difference by trying to achieve to the very best of our abilities, no matter what we do. I see this all the time and it very much came home to me when I was attending the recent CQ University Graduation Ceremony in Gladstone. There was an array of people graduating that evening and it demonstrated to me those who have been working hard and who have the potential to actually change the world. Now that might seem like a big ask, but when any of us achieve some advance in what we do, it does change the whole world. I am reminded of the words of Robert Kennedy who said:

"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?"

Robert F. Kennedy, US Democratic politician; US Attorney General 1961-1965; candidate for Democratic president nomination 1968; assassinated brother of John F. Kennedy.

Speech at the University of Kansas on March 18, 1968.

We might not think we have a great effect on the future and we cannot change things, but I do not believe that for a moment. And it is not a case of "well I will leave it to

somebody else", or "it is too hard for me", or "I do not have any ability to take on the hard problems". When I see people like Rachel Macnamara (daughter of our very own Gary and Shirley) achieving her second qualification and talking about what it means to be a teacher (Rachel is a teacher at Gladstone High School) I am personally inspired. To all of the "Rachel's" out there, I can only say "**good on you!**" Go out there and make a difference, change the world.



Rachel Macnamara receiving her Graduate Diploma of Learning and Teaching at the CQUniversity Graduation Ceremony in Gladstone recently.

Regards
SHOEY

Glenn Schumacher
GENERAL MANAGER

History Book Project Well Underway



Dr Barbara Webster has undertaken extensive interviews for the history book.

Work is well underway on the Gladstone Power Station history book project.

As many employees are aware work began on the project in July 2008 with Dr Barbara Webster from CQUniversity's Institute of Sustainable Regional Development commissioned to write the book. Barbara is a published historian within the Faculty of Arts, Business, Informatics and Education at the Rockhampton campus.

The book will provide an interpretation of the history of GPS and of the working lives of those who have previously employed or are currently working at the station.

So far Barbara has undertaken 70 recorded interviews which will give a balanced view of the history and working life at GPS.

As a taste of what is to come, Barbara has already submitted a chapter on the history of apprenticeships which been thoroughly

enjoyed by a number GPS employees who were given the privilege of proof reading it.

At the same time Barbara has been conducting research in the State Archives to gain an appreciation of the early planning that was undertaken before the station came to be.

"I am really trying to capture the atmosphere of the power station and stories from the employees over the years, rather than just 'the facts' as in a conventional history," Barbara said.

Barbara expects the manuscript to be between 80,000 - 100,000 words (approximately 250-300 pages) when completed in June 2010. All current employees as well as many past employees will be provided with a copy of the book at a public launch to be held in the third quarter next year.

New Ash Hopper for Unit 4 Finally Here

On Friday 15 May the Unit 4 Ash Hopper was finally retired from service and removed from its position under Unit 4 Boiler. The photo of the hopper being transported to the scrap yard shows how battered the hopper had become from 30 years of service.

Following the removal of the hopper the old foundations were removed and new foundations installed. The new foundations lowered the exit position of the ash hopper so that a larger fall could be included in the new ash hopper design to assist with better removal of waste.

On Tuesday 2 June the new Unit 4 Ash Hopper arrived at site from the Walz Construction workshop. The new ash hopper was

designed by Aurecon (formerly Connell Wagner) and included several material and design changes from the previous hopper to overcome all the maintenance and operational issues that arose over the last 30 years of service.

The new hopper has been built using speciality stainless steels designed to operate in salt water at high temperatures.

NRG Project Manager Graeme Hawke was a relieved man when the new Ash Hopper was finally in position at the front of Unit 4 Boiler after several tight positions had to be negotiated as our photo shows.



It was a case of out with the old ash hopper...



...And in with the new ash hopper

Security Hut Extensions Underway

Visitors to the power station of late will no doubt have noticed the subtle changes being made to the appearance of the security hut.

Specialist Projects Civil, Alan Timm said a long awaited refurbishment and extension of the hut was underway to improve the functionality of the hut.

The refurbishment will also resolve a number of safety issues with employees accessing the security hut.

“We’ve extended the hut forward and made it a little wider at the northern end so that people wanting to come on to site will now come into a booth at the front of the hut which will prevent them from possibly stepping out into traffic coming and going from the site,” Alan said.

MSS Security Services licensee Wayne Paton was pleased with the changes made so far and the additional working space resulting from the refurbishment.

Since MSS began providing security services for the station several new technologies have been employed including closed circuit television cameras to monitor the site perimeter, the Cardex system for access control and the I Track system for vehicle management.

“It will be a much better working environment for staff and more suited to our current responsibilities as with each new technology introduced more equipment was added to a very confined space,” he said.



Alan Timm and Wayne Paton discuss plans for the upgraded security hut.

EcoFest Draws Huge Crowd

A picture perfect day greeted the reported 10,000 visitors to the Tondoon Botanic Gardens for the eleventh annual EcoFest on Sunday 31 May. The day provided an ideal opportunity for NRG to showcase and promote environmental sustainability and build awareness of new environmental initiatives being undertaken at the station.

The EcoFest celebrations kicked off on the Saturday night with a number of employees attending the EcoFest "Under the Stars" Sponsors Dinner with guest presenters Ranger Tim and Craig and Gabrielle Latta from the Australian Freshwater Turtle Conservation and Research Association.

This year's theme was "Your Planet Needs You - UNite to Combat Climate Change." NRG's display featured information on how GPS is working towards minimising its environmental footprint and on NRG Energy Inc's Climate Change Policy.

The children from Birralee Kindergarten added a splash of colour to the NRG display with their delightful cardboard fish and crabs

which all added to the marine life theme. As an extra bit of fun the children were able to make their very own "mini power station" as well as "catch a fish" in the novelty fishing competition

Once again NRG shared their tent with Bill and Shirley Sawynock from CapReef who provided valuable information and interesting displays highlighting their work in relation to local climate change and sustainable fishing practices.

NRG was one of 80 businesses and community organisations who set up and manned environmental displays on the day.

Naturally the day would not have been a great success with out employee volunteers and special thanks must go to our team of Paul Vanderlist, Dave Greinke, Allison Hutton, Archie Lowe, George Bennetts, Martin Thomas, Geoff Sorensen, Ben Hayden, Sandy Hunt, Cherie Cananagh, Lynda Casey, Kathryn Giles, Sarah Maynard, Dallas Black, Brad Greer, David Lahey, Kev Ryan and Gary Macnamara who helped organise and man the display.



“Around the Traps”



Hanging out in the Coal Bunkers

Hanging on a rope carrying out thickness testing measurements on the outer side of the coal bunkers may not be everyone's cup of tea but for employees of Rockhampton based company, Highpoint Access and Rescue, this was just another work day.

Mechanical Engineer Auxiliary, Frank Driessen said that due to the appearance of holes in the unit coal bunkers the company were contracted to help the station get an accurate picture of the condition of the bunkers.

“The thickness data will be used to assess the condition of the bins and determine the extent of work required to ensure that the bins will remain serviceable for the next twenty years or so,” Frank said.

“Three bins of the six have now been surveyed and early indications are that the holes are due to localised pitting,” he said.

Vertical rope access techniques similar to that used in rescue situations were used to gain access to the outside walls of the bins so that the thickness testing could be carried out.



Highpoint Access and Rescue staff carry out thickness measurements on the outside of the bunkers.

25 Years for Don Lodding

Having recently come back from three months long service leave Don was relaxed and looking forward to the prospect of joining many of his workmates in the NRG 25 year Club.

Born in Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, Don spent his early childhood growing up close to Brighton Beach, near Adelaide. In 1964, at the age of 16 Don decided it was time to explore the world so he joined the navy as a Junior recruit.

During the next 12 years Don would spend many years at sea as well as working at naval bases in NSW and Victoria where he completed his electrical trade.

After leaving the navy in 1976 Don moved back to Perth where he spent the next three years working for various electrical contractors.

Looking for a lifestyle change Don moved to Queensland in 1979 working for five years on the Thiess Brothers Wivenhoe Power Station Construction Project. With the completion of the project Don and his young family transferred to Gladstone in June 1984.

Joining GPS as an electrical fitter in the overhaul workshop Don worked under Claude Powe, Terry Simpson and John Newby before taking on a role as a maintenance facilitator in Tony McRay's Resource Control section in 1989. Despite numerous name changes Don continued in this role until 2001 when following a reorganisation he decided to move back onto the tools in the mills overhaul crew.

During his time at the station Don is well respected for his many years of dedicated service to the GPS Rec Club. As Rec Club President for five years during the early 1990's Don raised the profile of the club by introducing many new work related and family activities for Rec Club members.

"We had a lot more young families in those days and strong sporting clubs and I think the employees appreciated the opportunity to socialise with each other through the regular Rec Club activities," Don said.

These days Don prefers to lead a quieter lifestyle and with retirement beckoning in the near future he is looking forward to spending more time camping, fishing and travelling.



Don Lodding is pleased to be joining many of his workmates in the 25 year club.

Getting Personal with Production Unit Controller Christoph Koefler

In the 12 months you have worked at the station what's been your impression of the plant and people so far?

The site is a lot bigger than I imagined and it took a while to find my way around without having to backtrack. Everyone is very friendly and helpful.

What have you enjoyed about the Operator Traineeship?

The training has been great and the facilities are excellent. There aren't many companies around that provide training to this extent.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I'm a fitter and turner by trade and have worked in industry and construction. About 12 years ago I changed to operations and worked in plants as diverse as the Shale Oil Plant, Yarwun Refinery and Orica.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

The challenge of learning new skills and the fact that I've heard a lot of good things about GPS.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

I like to do a bit of sailing and fishing or just relax at home. There are always a few things to do around the house and if that's not enough I've got a shed full of projects at various states of completion.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

Gladstone has got quite a few things going for it - the climate, the relaxed lifestyle, the town is not too big, the harbour, the reef just is offshore and there's even a mountain you can climb.

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

I was born and raised in Matrei, a small town in the Austrian Alps where I spent most of my time before coming to Australia at the age of 25.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

We're an average aussie family, married with three children, a dog and two chicks.

If I wasn't a Unit Controller I'd probably be.....

.....sitting on my yacht and enjoying the millions I've won in Gold Lotto.

At home I like to cook....

I reckon I'm a pretty good cook - the rest of the family may beg to differ.

Someone who makes me laugh is.....

My son Kenneth, he comes out with some beauties.

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

Watching a rod and reel go over the side - not once but twice.



Post Service Acid Clean for Unit 4

The first chemical clean on Unit 4 since November 1995 is expected to be conducted from 3 - 5 July following the completion of the overhaul.

Superintendent Chemical Processes, Kelvin Newman said periodic cleans were needed to prolong the boiler tube life.

"The clean is required as corrosion within the boiler, and deposits of corrosion products in the feed system, cause a build up in high heat flux areas on the waterside of the water-wall tubes," Kelvin said.

The corrosion deposits are iron in the form of magnetite and metallic copper.

The chemical clean occurs in three major stages - iron removal, citric acid rinse and copper removal and are based on cleaning solutions of citric acid and ammonia.

State of Origin Bound



Our regular troop of football fanatics headed to Melbourne for the first State of Origin. Not only were they pleased with the result but they were more than happy to come back without a dose of swine flu.

Col Johnston Joins 25 NRG Year Club

Reflecting upon his 25 years at the station Col Johnston says his only regret is that he wished he'd joined the station earlier on in his career.

"I'd worked with a lot of private contractors and heavy industry before joining the station but I've found the people, the working conditions and the variety of work to be better here than anywhere else I've worked previously," Col said.

Born in Sydney, Col was educated at Cavendish Road High School, Brisbane before going on to complete his electrical apprenticeship with a private contractor in Brisbane. He then worked for a number of contractors in South East Queensland before taking on a role with the State Works Department in 1970.

With the state economy beginning to boom Col joined James Watt at the Weipa bauxite mine but after six months he transferred back to Brisbane and worked on various industrial and high rise building projects including GMH, Ford, Ampol, APM and Austral Pacific Fertilizers to name a few.

In 1972 Col moved to Gladstone, initially working on QAL construction before moving into the operations area for two years. A further four years on GPS construction, two years with Telecom and time spent working as private contractor would pass by before Col finally joined GPS in June 1984 working for Claude Powe and John Newby.

"Because of my construction experience and the fact that I'd worked with Claude before, my first job was to relocate the bunker switchboard to a room behind the Science's lab. It was a big job and we had to shut down the coal route which supplied Units 1-4. Fortunately Pat Barnes was the leading hand at the time and his experience was invaluable in getting the job done," Col said.

Since that time Col has enjoyed working in nearly all areas of the plant with a variety of supervisors including Terry Simpson, Greg Powe, Rick Thomason, Maurie Frazer, Lindsay Prizeman and Russell Hunt.

When asked about other highlights of his time here Col remembered working on another major job in the early 1980's when the "snake pit" got flooded.

"We needed the units up and running quickly so a team of us worked through the Christmas period just to get the station back on line. It was interesting work and we always had a good crew of people to work with," Col said.

Having lived in Gladstone now for 37 years Col feels there is much to enjoy about the town

including the great weather and laid back lifestyle. Not surprising Col enjoys a love of the outdoors with walking on the beach, fishing, gardening, reading and going to the movies being some of his main leisure time interests.

(PS. After reading a recent edition of the Gladrag Col was amused to find that he had "inherited" a new son when his namesake Simon Johnston starting working in the same section. Ironically Col does have a son who works as an electrician, but not at the power station.)



Col says a highlight of his time was working on the relocation of the bunker switchboard.

New Wellness Board Located Outside Health Centre

The Wellness Committee have recently introduced another new initiative to help provide employees with information relating to a healthy lifestyle

Wellness committee member, Cora Marbach said a new wellness board has been set up outside the health centre to provide readily accessible information to employees and contractors on topical health issues.



Cora says the new wellness board will provide readily accessible information to employees on topical wellness issues.

"A lot of employees are now keen to take a proactive role and learn more about ways to improve their health and having a wellness board is one way of communicating information and getting employees to take an active approach to improving their health," Cora said.

"During May we set up display to help promote Cardiac Awareness. Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in Australia and so the month of May is a dedicated health promotion to raise awareness about heart disease and increasing knowledge about prevention," Cora added.

Cora said the plan was to promote a different health issue each month so that employees can take steps to managing their own health and wellness.

Next month the wellness board will feature information on bowel cancer awareness and employees are encouraged to take advantage of the information provided.

"By taking an interest in their health, employees can help prevent many of the issues we hear about such as heart disease and diabetes which later in life can catch up with us and influence the lifestyle we wish to enjoy," Cora said

Where are they now? - Bob Truscott

What period did you work at the station?

1980 to 2001

Tell us about your roles at the station prior to becoming General Manager in 1997.

I started as a graduate engineer and worked in most parts of the Engineering section or Technical Services as it became. In the late 80's I think Don Kerr made me Engineering Manager to keep me out of harm's way. I then spent a brief period after the 'Sale' as Production Manager before becoming the General Manager Operations in 1995.

What are the achievements you are most proud of during your time on the management team and as General Manager?

Obviously our greatest challenge as a management team post 'Sale' in 1994 was to help employees make the transition to the new organisation successfully and still meet our new owner's expectations for improved productivity. Perhaps our greatest achievement was to do that without any forced redundancies. I am most proud of the maturity and dignity that the vast majority of employees displayed during what were incredibly stressful times.

The 1990's were a period of great change along with major plant refurbishment. How did working with the management team from NRG Energy Inc help the station move forward?

Without exception every person who I had the privilege to work with on the management team (and I mean that in the broadest sense) at the time went above and beyond. I would like to make special mention of the Americans (or 'Expats' as they were known). Employees at the time were probably not aware of the

contributions they made during that period and how easily they became an integral part of our organisation. They could have easily imposed an arrogant one size fits all solution, but they were always interested in our views and the impacts on employees. I often wonder where they are now and hope they are happy and well.

What are your fondest memories of working with the employees at the station?

They were robust, extremely talented and resourceful. They could never be taken for granted, but were always there in a crisis. I'm sure that not much has changed, except for the quantity and colour of the hair (judging by some of the Gladrags you have sent me).

Do you have any particular message for current employees?

The story of GPS is more colourful, more controversial and more full of challenge than most others. It is also a story of employees working together when it most counts to overcome great technical and organisational challenges. It is a fine tradition that I hope will continue.

What do you miss about living in Gladstone?

I miss the people and the energy in the community there. In the years I was there the region grew immensely, both in size and reputation. I probably timed it just right. It was a great place to party when I first went there and grew to be a great place to bring up our kids.

What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

I became redundant following the NRG bankruptcy. I then had some time off before becoming General Manager Operations

at Tarong in 2003. We quickly realised we didn't like being that far from the sea so we packed up and moved back to Emu Park (heaven) in 2005. Again I was enjoying unemployment until Rhonda told me to go out and do something useful. I have ended up managing water and sewerage operations for the Council. I don't know much about it and the blokes have to be very patient with me, but I am learning. Not much has changed really.

What do you enjoy about living in Emu Park

We love everything about Emu Park - not many people, lots of islands, a good pub in walking distance and George Bennetts hasn't destroyed the fish population yet.

Do you still keep up with any of the GPS management team or employees?

We see people from time to time at 50th birthday parties and the like, but certainly not as much as we would like. We met some wonderful people during our 21 years there and I often look at the picture I was given when we left and reminisce. When we do run into people it is like we never left, which is great.

Tell us a little bit about your family?

Rhonda is working for Landcare part time and running a maid and taxi service for our teenage daughters (all for love of course). The girls are at University and finishing Grade 12 respectively. Their principal goal in life is to prevent us from having enough money to retire early. If they are as successful in other facets of their life as this we have nothing to worry about. Most importantly they are all well.

If you know of a former employee who may be interested in participating please forward their contact details to Gary Macnamara ext 504.

Service Register - June 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 June.

28 years	Peter Van Nimwegen, Trevor Williams
27 years	Russell Curtis, Ken Fischer, Phillip Hayne
25 years	Col Johnston, Don Lodding
24 years	Edward Somerfield
16 years	Jodie Patchett
15 years	Adrian Taylor
37 years	Clifford Heidenreich
32 years	Dave Brown
30 years	Gary Harmer
29 years	John Mann, Peter Lamb, David Pendreigh



Bob and his daughter at her senior graduation.