

No more blocked drains

A new car wash down facility has been constructed on a redundant coal spillage pit on the north side of the coal receiving switch room on Coal Plant Drive.

Manager Maintenance Martin Thomas said, “ The light vehicle fleet at GPS needed a wash down facility that could handle the dirt and coal that accumulates in the wheel arches and under body to prevent corrosion, assist in the identification of defects and generally caring for our vehicles.

Martin and Manager Production Joel Otley, had set about finding a suitable location onsite for the vehicle wash down facility. The use of the steam cleaning station outside the store was considered inadequate as the dirt and coal residue continually blocked the drains.



New car wash facility with Matthew Adamson and Allan Timm

“The new location was ideal as the dirt and coal from the cars could easily be collected from the pit and prevented from going into the drains system,” Martin said.



New car wash facility

The construction of the facility was managed by Specialist Civil Projects Allan Timm and Superintendent Fuel, Maintenance Matthew Adamson. The building of the facility was achieved through the combined effort of Jeff Clifton, Lindsay Owbridge and Ben Schofield.

“The design is such that the dirt and coal solids can be collected in the pit while the water can drain into the 5 and 6 retention pond via a weir arrangement. This ensures any solids, oil and fuel residues are not released into the environment,” Allan explained.

The car wash facility should be completed ready for use next month.

Making it easier to get around

Introducing new street names at NRG is no small task and has taken the efforts and dedication of a large team of people who were involved in making the name changes and producing and installing the new signs. The project is an ongoing one, expensive and time consuming, with many signs still to be put in place. John Norris, Superintendent Site Services said completion is still some time off.

John and Joel Otley, Manager Production have been at the forefront of the project. John said the naming of the streets came about for a number of reasons. The new street names will provide employees and anyone visiting the power station with a reference point, where they are, and where they are going, making it a lot easier to get around.

Senior management approved the changes several years ago beginning a very exciting project. Keith Childs, Technical Officer Drafting then became involved, assisting

the team with designing and drawing the signs.

Some of the names include Transformer Road, Boiler Avenue and Hydrogen Cul De Sac. There is a street named “Atritter, which has to do with Shoey’s affiliation with Mills.

Stewart Dodds from “Dodds Construction” has begun erecting the signs. This is no small task, with some of the signs needing to be drilled into concrete.

Employees and contractors will notice the new signs around the power station.

So when you are walking or driving around the plant stop and take notice of the newly named streets of NRG.



John checks out one of the new street signs which have recently been erected around site.

From Shoey's Desk

A New Year

Dear Folks

Well a new year is starting and it promises to be a very interesting one here at GPS. Over the past few years we have seen endless discussions about Climate Change and the effect that "Carbon Pollution" is having on climate. Of course the Coal-Fired Electricity Industry is under particular pressure as a large emitter of Carbon gases. So, perhaps it is time that we talked about these issues as it is critical to our future here at GPS.

Just before Christmas we watched as world leaders meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark took part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference. The outcome of the conference can be summarised as a "non binding" agreement by some nations to:

"To achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention to stabilise greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, we shall, recognising the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius, on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development, enhance our long-term cooperative action to combat climate change."

And of course there was a lot of coming and going last year over the Australian Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The Government has indicated that it would like to reduce Australia's carbon pollution to 25 per cent below 2000 levels



by 2020 and would like to see the world agree to an ambitious global deal to stabilise levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at 450 parts per million CO2 equivalent or lower. This of course may change as the Government considers the outcome from Copenhagen and any changes which need to be made to get the CPRS legislation through the Parliament.

Whilst the CPRS has not yet come to reality, we have already seen the first effects with the introduction of National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme. GPS has already started reporting under NGER.

So, of course the question people keep asking me is "...do I believe that Climate Change is real and is it caused by Greenhouse Gases?". Well, I listen to the debates as they go back and forward and I have been reading as much material as I can get my hands on regarding this subject. My answer to the question has come down to this: in managing a Power Station I live in a world of managing risk and my view is that to ensure a long and successful future for GPS, we cannot risk the potential that Climate Change is real and that it is effected by Carbon emissions. We need to find solutions which work for GPS and improve the business we have here.

Of course we need to understand how any changes in legislation and community expectations may effect GPS and more importantly we need to work on how we can prepare GPS in terms of reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions. During 2010 we will be stepping up our work in this area.

So, watch this space as we work through these issues.

GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards
SHOEY
Glenn Schumacher
General Manager

Upcoming Community Events

Clean-up Australia Day

The twentieth national Clean-up Australia Day is scheduled for **Sunday 7 March** and interested employees and their families are invited to volunteer their services for the morning.

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

NRG Great Raft Race

NRG is once again sponsoring The Great Raft Race at the 2010 Gladstone Harbour Festival. The race will be held on **Good Friday 2 April at the Goondoon Street Boat Ramp.**

NRG's sponsorship is \$11,000. NRG will sponsor the construction of a limited number of rafts to be built and crewed by NRG employees. NRG will sponsor materials to an agreed budget. There will a prize for the first NRG crew over the line.

Employees or crews interested in designing a raft should submit their design and budgets to their department manager for approval. Remember raft designs should be safe, environmentally friendly and have high entertainment value.

Units Electrical Supports the Needy in the Community

The Units Electrical workgroup have once again shown their support for the less fortunate in the community with a donation to Gladstone's Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Members of the small workgroup donated \$760 which was used to purchase hampers for almost 10 families over Christmas. This is double the amount given by the group in 2007.

After initially getting the idea from Cheryl O'Callaghan about eight years ago, Kev Ryan approached his superintendent Ray Que to encourage Units Electrical to adopt a family.

Ray was so enthusiastic that he and his wife Chris offered to do all the shopping and even wrapped the children's presents. However now we leave this up to Saint Vinnies who prepared hampers for about 100 families this Christmas.

Kev said workgroup members now look forward to donating to the event each year and he challenges other work groups to do similar next year.

"This is a great team effort and Christmas is a time when a lot of people are doing it tough so through this program we can give a little bit back to the community. Hopefully this will alleviate some of

the stress on families who need assistance over Christmas," Kev said.

General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher congratulated the group on their efforts.

"I would just like to pass on my personal congratulations for setting an example of what Christmas is really about. Those of us who earn good living and have a good life style can often lose sight of those members of our community who have for what ever reason not got it as good as we do. I believe we should always consider those people and endeavour to bring them along on life's journey," he said.



NRG's John McGhie and Cameron Smith check out the hampers with St Vincent de Paul Society's President Denis Mitchell.

Boost for Local Charities over Christmas

Four local charities received a timely boost to their coffers last month with donations from the Gladstone Community Charities Fund.

Donations of \$2,000 each were made to Gladstone Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and Roseberry Community Services while the Port Curtis Respite Centre received a \$3,000 donation for the purchase of a TV.



Charities Fund President representatives Archie Lowe and Doug Thomas present cheques to St Vincent de Paul's Denis Mitchell, Roseberry Community Services Kim Schinkel and the Salvation Army's Major Bill Hutley.

Charities Fund President, Archie Lowe said each of the charities were extremely grateful for the donations which would go to helping the less fortunate members of our community.

"This time of year there are a lot of people doing it tough so it's appropriate that we try to give something back to those who need it the most," Archie said.

Other recent donations made by the Charities Fund include:

- \$980 to Calliope SES for purchase of a chain saw
- \$1,000 to Rosella Park School for play equipment
- \$1,000 to the Westowe Fire Brigade for the purchase of four portable VHF radios
- \$1,000 to the Gladstone Linking Agency for purchase of kitchen appliances for the new club house

Since the fund was established in August 1982, nearly \$370,000 has been donated to charities in the Gladstone area. To assist the fund in its charity work NRG contributes over \$6,500 to the fund each year.

Kestrels take Flight

Two fluffy feathered friends were happy to call the power station home for a couple of months.

The two baby Nankeen Kestrels were perched high in the rafters of Units 1 and 2 Ash Hoppers before falling out of their nest last month.

Being only a few weeks old the Kestrels spent a few weeks being nursed by the Gladstone & District Wildlife Carers

Association before being released back into bushland near the power station.

The Kestrel is one of the smallest birds in the falcon family and is found in Australia and New Guinea. It generally occupies temperate grasslands and open woodlands.

Jodie Jones from the Gladstone & District Wildlife Association and Dave Greinke prepare to release the Kestrels into local bushland.



Skills Centre Students Contribute to Safety Improvements

Production employees will now benefit from the safe and clean storage of 6.6kV circuit breaker protective shields thanks to B Shift and students from the Gladstone Schools Engineering Skills Centre.

As part the GPS Incentive Scheme, B Shift identified a need to safely store and effectively transport the protective shields within the 6.6kV Switchroom.

Paul Adamson drafted initial drawings of the acrylic door racks which students then developed further to come up with the final design.

"I noticed that when the perspex shields were finished with, they were just leaning up against one wall for storage. They were becoming damaged as they were falling down. I thought at the time that perhaps we need a rack to store them, with wheels for easy transport. Therefore, it solved two problems, general housekeeping and manual handling," Paul said.

Kerry Moffit believed the project was a great incentive and allowed the students at the Skills Centre to put their skills to good use fabricating an improvement project.

"The students have done a really great job fabricating the trolley. They have finished one and are progressively completing six more. It's great to see them involved with making improvements at the station and it gives them an end product they can be proud of," Kerry said.

GSESC students Ben Thomas and Brendan Crawford and teacher Peter Hamment inspect the new acrylic door rack which will allow the safe storage of 6.6kV protective shields.



Why is it Important for us to Stay Safe This Year?

We have just gone through the Christmas and New Year period which is when we get to spend time with the people we love or do something that we find enjoyable. Family and friends come together to enjoy each others company, catch up on the year that was and bring in the year that will be.

Others prefer to spend this time on a holiday away or at home with family and friends. But what ever it is we end up doing it is a time of the year that we usually enjoy. Therefore we look forward to the next festive season.

So we should keep this fresh in our minds over the course of the year and use it as inspiration to help focus our seven units on the tasks ahead. In doing so we stop ourselves causing incidents that would prevent us from enjoying the next Christmas period.

We can use the ZIP training that we received last year to help us maintain what is important to us now and in the future. If we think about our Personal Big 5, most of which we would have encountered over the Christmas break, these are the things that will inspire us to stay safe at work.

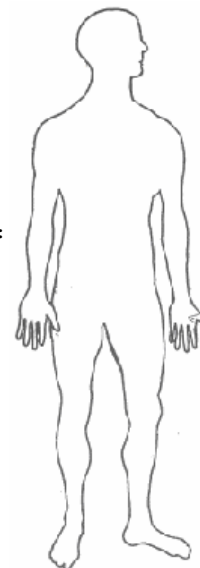
For the sake of our loved ones let's always remember our Personal Big 5 and focus our seven units on the task at hand before we start.



Zip Implementation team member Grant Sutherland remembered his Personal Big Five when spending time with his family over Christmas.

NRG Injury Statistics for 2009 Part of Body Injured

Back/Neck:		Head / Face:	
2 Sprain/Strain/Jarring		Laceration/Abrasion	1
0 Burn		Burn	0
0 Abrasion/ Contusion		Contusion	1
0 Insect Bite		Broken Teeth	0
Abdomen/Groin:		Eyes:	
0 Sprain/Strain/Hernia		Foreign Bodies	2
0 Contusion		Flash Burn	0
		Burn Eyelid	1
Buttock:		Ears:	
0 Contused		Industrial Deafness	2
		Infection	0
Leg/Knee/Ankle/Foot:		Shoulder:	
1 Laceration/Abrasion		Contusion	0
0 Burn		Sprain/Strain	2
1 Contusion/ Haematoma		Arm/Elbow/Wrist:	
6 Sprain/Strain		Laceration/Abrasion/Incision	1
0 Puncture Wound		Burn	0
0 Fracture		Contusion	1
Body:		Sprain/Strain	1
0 Inhalation/Ingestion		Bites/Stings	0
0 Absorption		Rash/Dermatitis	0
2 Heat Exhaustion		Fracture	0
0 Burns		Ganglion	0
0 Abrasions/Contusions		Hand/Fingers:	
Electric Shock:		Laceration/Abrasion/Incision	5
0 Entry Arm/Elbow/Wrist		Burn / Scald	1
0 Hand/Finger		Contusion	2
		Crush Injury	0
Chest/Ribs:		Fracture	0
0 Sprain/Strain		Puncture Wound	0
0 Puncture Wound		Sprain/Strain/Dislocation	0
0 Contusion		Foreign Body	0
		Carpal Tunnel	1
		Insect/Animal Bite	0



Injury Classification YTD.

- 1 LTI / Restricted Work Day
- 0 Medical Treatment cases
- 29 First-aid Injuries
- 2 Industrial Deafness
- 1 Occ. Disease/Illness

**This diagram shows injuries of:
Permanent NRG Employees & Apprentices
Specific Task Employees
NRG Labour Hire Employees.**

Employees Presented with Graduation Certificates

Joel Otley- Production Manager recently presented employees Wayne Franks – Superintendent C Shift, and Ken Harris – Unit Controller with their certificates for their Frontline Management course. Congratulations to them both on such an outstanding achievement.



Manager Production Joel Otley, presents Wayne Franks and Ken Harris with their Frontline Management Graduation certificates.

Hydraulic equipment training

In December John Marxsen, Specialist Maintenance Training arranged for Allan Raaen from Enerpac to conduct training for the 2009 intake of apprentices and all apprentices who hadn't previously undertaken training in the safe use and care of hydraulic equipment. The training session was conducted to demonstrate and educate employees on how to use the equipment correctly and safely. How to examine the equipment for defects and correct storage of the equipment was emphasised.

Places on the session were also offered to other NRG employees who required their knowledge and skills to be updated.

Enerpac hydraulic equipment is used on site to move material and equipment up to 100 tonne. Because of the hydraulic pressure required to shift such heavy weights and the potential to cause harm to equipment and personnel, it is imperative to select the correct procedure and equipment. Maintaining the equipment in good operating condition lessens the chance of equipment failure.

This training session is offered free to NRG by Enerpac as part of their commitment to NRG in helping to maintain a safe work environment. Whilst Allan was at NRG he also carried out a 12 month inspection on all Enerpac equipment.



Keeping resolutions

With the new year upon us, and the memory of the excesses of Christmas not far behind, millions of Australians will be committing themselves to New Year resolutions. Some will pledge to eat healthily and lose weight, others will commit to calling their mother more often or spending more time with the kids, and others will decide that this will be the year that they stick to the budget.

Peoples' resolutions differ widely. Something common to most resolutions though is that by mid year they are all but forgotten. Healthy living will have taken a back seat to indulgence, work commitments will have gotten in the way of family time, and budgets will have been broken.

Getting the most out of a resolution requires thought and perseverance.

1. **Set clear objectives** - Knowing what you want to achieve and why can help get you through temptations

2. **Develop a realistic plan** - Think about what you can realistically do to achieve your resolution

3. **Be committed** - Keeping a resolution takes a lot of perseverance and effort, you need to be prepared to put in the hard yards

4. **Be accountable** - Having someone you trust check in on you can help keep you on track

And remember, breaking your resolution doesn't have to be the end of it. Simply pick yourself up, think about why you faltered, and try to do better next time.

Converge International can provide you with professional assistance to set goals for the coming year. Assistance is funded by your employer, and can be arranged at a time convenient for you. To arrange an appointment, freecall Converge International on +800 337 068.

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Freecall 1800 337 068

www.convergeinternational.com.au



Service Register – January 2010

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

48 years	Don Shambrook	31 years	Kevin Peagam,	23 years	John Dickfos
47 years	Trevor Heard	30 years	Neil Smith,	22 years	John Gibson
44 years	Tony Frazer		Russell Hunt,	21 years	Jeffrey Clifton
41 years	Bill Cary		Kerry Raine	20 years	David Allen,
40 years	Wayne Watson	29 years	Ron Williams,		Kelvin Newman
35 years	Ross Ahern,	28 years	Darren Ross	18 years	Gerry Schouten,
	Kevin Johnson		Gary Macnamara,		Robert Sweeney
34 years	Bob Dennien,		Bob Pirie,	17 years	Andrew Sibley,
	Ross Stieler,		John Hall,		Sandy Hunt
	Rod Augusten,	27 years	Neil Petersen	16 years	Matthew Adamson,
	John Cook,	25 years	Ray Sumner		Robert Button
	Graham Long		Kelvin Bebendorf,	12 years	Graham Murray,
32 years	Michael Mann,	24 years	Bill Whitmore,		Kym Haack
	Ray Waghorn		Stephen Lewis		

Departments Combine to Shift Mud

Early December 2009 saw the completion of the GPS Cooling Water inlet canal dredging project. The successful outcome was achieved through the joint effort and contribution of persons from the Production, Major Projects, Business Services, HSE&C and Maintenance departments, during the project preparation and execution stages.

Approximately 25,000m³ of sediment, mostly mud silt and clay, was removed from the canal during the dredging process.

The project did not come without its challenges. Glen Kiernan who managed the contractor, Mini Dredge, said, "It was critical to control cutter position on the canal floor to ensure the required channel profile was achieved but also to minimise turbidity in the canal. With the varying sediment loads in parts of the canal as well as large tidal variations causing fluctuating currents, Mini Dredge's Mud Ace crew used appropriate methods and achieved an excellent result",

To achieve this, a cable guided and propelled cutter suction dredge proved to be very effective in the currents of the canal.



Dredging

A further challenge was relocating the dredge within the canal. "This was always going to be a challenge, particularly under the road and rail bridges but this was safely performed with the dredge using its suction pump as water-jet propulsion

by removing the spoil pipeline and the other work boats guiding it upstream", said Glen.

The project commenced on 7th October with the initial pumping of the spoil and continued 10 hours per day, 6 days per week through to 2nd December with a 8 day break in mid November.



Dredging

During this period John Kunze monitored and controlled the dredge spoil which was deposited into 3 ponds in Ash Management area 6 to allow the sediment to settle.

"The mud settlement was very efficient with the high solids to water ratios being achieved. It was similar to the old wet ash dams that were in operation in the pre-dry dust day of GPS", said John.

During this process water run-off from the settlement pond was directed through the ash settlement maze to the GPS licence discharge point at the Calliope River. This discharge was monitored in accordance with the Department of Environment and Resources Management requirements specified for the dredging project.

The final hydro-graphic survey is yet to be completed, but data so far confirms that 14,900m³ of sediment was removed from Cooling Water Main Basin from Hanson Rd to the Primary screens. A similar quantity is anticipated to have been removed from the section of the canal from the Rail Bridge to Alf O'Rourke Drive.

Slippery Elm Trial

Part of the work of Production Engineering is looking at ways to improve plant efficiency.

One key area is coal. Over the past two years a number of trials have been undertaken to better understand our plant, its performance and the characteristics of the coal available to GPS. A key component of this is attempting to improve Mills efficiency. One of the more interesting approaches has been the recent coal additive trials.

GPS has trialed using low HGI coals (difficult to grind). Results from the trials revealed that while this coal met most of the criteria for use here as a fuel, the milling behaviour of the coal was unusual, raising

concerns about the amount of power required to mill it and the size of the milled coal particles.

In some other mineral milling processes, additives are used to improve mill power consumption and to increase the fineness of the milled particles. Additives are not traditionally used when milling Queensland coals so some basic research was required.

Over the past couple of months, Unit 4 has been used to test different combinations of coal type, coal milling additive type and coal mill condition. Additives tested include Hoop Pine bark, Slash Pine bark, cement clinker grinding additive and an agricultural dispersant. The additives are intended to reduce the attraction of individual coal particles to each other, causing more mill power to be available for breaking up the particles.



Ross Mckenzie, Specialist Production Engineer

The pine tree bark additives were added to the test coal as the coal went along the bunkering conveyor, using a small portable conveyor fed

by bobcat. The cement clinker grinding additive was in liquid form which was atomised with compressed air and sprayed onto the coal on the coal feeder belt. The agricultural dispersant additive was a fine powder which was also added to the coal on the feeder belt, but was drawn through a large purpose-made funnel by the slight vacuum inside the feeder. The funnel was kept full by manually emptying bags of the additive into the funnel.

In the latest round of testing, mills 4A and 4D were used, with 4A mill representing a mill that is close to requiring an overhaul, and 4D mill representing a recently overhauled mill. Coal was sampled during each test run by a team of people at locations before the feeder, at three locations within each side of the test mill, and at each PF duct between the test mill and the burners.

Project leader Ross McKenzie is happy with the recently-completed series of tests and is eagerly awaiting the results of the particle size analysis work currently being done by Ultra Systems Technology in Brisbane.

Ross thanks all involved in this series of test runs.

Where are they now? – Louise Watson (nee Bourke)



Louise as she is today.

What period did you work at the station?

I started my apprenticeship in 1982 with 39 other "Puds" as we were known then and finished at the power station in 1987.

Tell us about your apprenticeship and who were some of the other apprentices you enjoyed working with at the time.

Should I name them all? Bob, Arnie, Barry, Peter, Steven, Bruce, Kristine.....It was a lot of fun working at the power station. We didn't really work with other apprentices much, we just ate lunch together. I worked with a lot of great tradesmen including Terry Simpson, Terry Jones, Bob Holloway and Tony Harris. I started out with the technicians and Mick Wickman was the first person I got to work with. I learnt how to read drawings with him and I remember he explained drawings with sound effects (it worked). Greg Powe was another technician I worked with and taught me everything I knew about the Chlorine Plant! I also remember coming back to the workshop one day and Mitch Brown was just finishing putting a motor back together. He called out to me to come and watch him "blow it up" (he was joking). When he powered the motor up it really did explode off the bench scaring us half to death.

Along with Kristine Gill you were the first female apprentices at GPS. How did you find working in a predominantly male environment?

I didn't know any other environment so it was always pretty good. Most people were friendly and as long as you pulled your weight, carried the toolbox and asked questions, you were fine. Before I started Dad told me that if anybody "tried it on" I was to kick them in..... the knee cap! He said it would really hurt them, to which I

replied that I would be aiming a bit higher than that and that it would really, really hurt! But luckily I never had to use my size 6 steal capped boots for that purpose. They were all perfect gentlemen.

Would you like to see more female electricians in the workforce and would you recommend it to other girls leaving high school?

I would recommend anybody have a go at any job they want to in life. I can't believe it's 28 years ago since I was a girl just leaving high school!

Your father Don Bourke worked at the station as an electrical trades assistant for many years. Did he have an influence on your career choice?

Dad certainly did. After my brothers left home I became the surrogate son and started helping him on weekends with his projects. (He gave me a circular saw for my 16th birthday!) He came home from work one day with the application form for me and the rest is history. Unfortunately he passed away in 2000 from Mesothelioma (asbestos cancer). He always told funny stories from the power station as well.

What are your fondest memories of working at the station?

I think the best memories I have are of the people I got to work with and the laughs we used to have. I particularly remember one day when Kristine's(Gill) watch band had broken. An older apprentice named Frank (Beaker) offered to solder it back together for her! Well it ended up being a molten mess and someone pinned it up under the heading of "Beaker's Welding Project". I have a thousand fun memories but my other favourite was when we (the 40 of us) had finished our time and we had a celebration and some of the other apprentices (Steven Arnold was the ringleader if I remember) made up awards and Peter (Nielson) won "Panlicker Apprentice of the Year." It was a toilet seat with bougainvillea flowers entwined in it and his acceptance speech

made us fall about laughing. (You had to be there because I can't repeat it)

What do you miss about living in Gladstone?

Am I supposed to say looking out the window and seeing those stacks? I miss my friends, but I try to come back at least once a year to visit.

What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

We moved to Brisbane in 2001 and spend time between work, socialising and running the boys around to sport.

What do you enjoy about living in Brisbane?

We live in the suburb Wynnum and like the easy going lifestyle of the bayside. The city is just a train ride away.

Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

I still see that Michael Watson a bit!!

Tell us a little bit about your family?

Mick and I have been married for 23 years now. We have two sons, Hal (13yrs) and Luc (10yrs). They keep us busy with school and sporting activities. We have survived the first year of high school with Hal and look forward to the rest of the years.

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



Louise during her apprenticeship days.

Shannon's enjoying his work experience at NRG

Third year CQU engineering student Shannon Edwards started at NRG late last year and is currently undertaking a 6 month placement through NRG's partnership with CQU. Shannon is employed under the Engineering Co-op scheme that provides two six month periods of paid work experience.

Shannon hasn't decided which path of engineering he would like to go down. "I'd like to use these co-op placements to experience a few different areas of electrical engineering before I choose which path I'd like to go down specifically".

At the moment Shannon would say he is leaning more towards the control systems side of things. He finds it interesting to put electricity to use and make it actually do something useful.

In the long term, Shannon hopefully sees his degree as making it able to take him overseas in the future, but that is a long way away yet.

Before moving on to his university studies he attended Toolooa State High.

His hobbies include music and sports.



New employee Shannon Edwards

Peter Kent celebrates 25 years at NRG

Fuel Plant Operator Peter Kent is celebrating working at NRG for 25 years.

Peter was born in Rockhampton and at the age of 14 was already employed in the agricultural contracting industry in and around Biloela.

After a working holiday around Australia in 1969 Peter started work at Callide A working for Maurie Frazer. After selling the family property in 1970 he started work on the earthworks of the Gladstone Power Station for Lawton Earthmoving. He consequently worked on earthworks at Monduran Dam, Biggenden Mine and Blair Athol Coal Mine. Peter's jobs have seen him move around Queensland and have taken him to the Northern Territory for Thiess Bros.

Peter returned to Gladstone to join his parents in the transport industry, after which he ventured into his own business - Kents Forklift Hire. After 5 years running his own business he got employment in the coal plant under Maurie Sweeney.

Peter enjoys the lifestyle that 12 hour shift's gives as he has time off to enjoy other interests and driving a semi for Walz Constructions.

Peter and his wife Karol have a small property at Yarwun which gives him pleasure growing mangoes and breeding a few cows. They also have a caravan and cruiser which Peter and his wife Karol often use it to get away from it all. They plan to travel when Peter retires.

Outside of work activities have seen Peter volunteer for the Air Sea Rescue for 10 years, but gave it away when he moved to Yarwun. Peter joined the Westowe Rural Fire Brigade several years ago and is an active member in his community.



Getting Personal with Steven Heit

Position

Superintendent Employee Relations

Started

5th January 2010

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

I have found everyone is friendly and helpful, especially when asking where a particular location is in the plant and how to get their, any questions I have people are willing to help. I also think NRG has a great work environment.

What have you enjoyed about your new role?

Meeting new people has been a highlight. As I haven't been here for very long and I am enjoying the continual learning of a new system's processes and procedures. I also found the induction good, it is well presented and the coordination of everything was well organised.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

My last job was in Human Resources for BHP at Roxby Downs which is located in northern South Australia. The mine produces copper, uranium, silver and gold. My role included HR performance management, conducting interviews, system design and maintenance.

Before BHP I worked for Caltex as a HR manager, my role included system design, performance and remuneration and benefits for employee's.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

Opportunity to work in a industry that is new to me, and it was a new challenge. I felt I had the skills and knowledge to make a contribution to the HR team.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

I enjoy the outdoors, fishing, camping, and playing cricket. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

We moved to Gladstone to be closer to family. It's a good size town that has much to offer.

Gladstone offers a good lifestyle that I am attracted to, it is close to the reef, yet we can escape and go camping without having to go too far.

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

I was born in Chinchilla, Qld.

The first school I attended was St Joseph's Catholic School.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

I was born and grew up in Chinchilla, I have one older brother.

I have been married for 2 years, my wife Kylie is an Accountant, and we have a 8 month old golden Labrador named Mack.

My worst habit is.....

Messing up my wife's Tupperware cupboard.

At home I like to cook....

A BBQ with steak and snags.

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

New Zealand, we had a driving holiday and stayed with friends, and visited both islands. I went bungy jumping, white water rafting at Rotorua, walked to the base of the glaciers, rode the lunge at Queenstown and stayed at the Marlborough wine region and to name a few things.

You wouldn't know it but I'm no good at

Being domesticatedI appreciate my wife very much!

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

tPacking to move to SA and not knowing anyone. Going sounded good at the time. It was hard being so remote. For us to travel to Adelaide was a 6 hour drive through red sand, salt and bush. But I did have a good time once their, visiting Port Lincoln, Uluru, Lake Ayre and the Barossa Valley.

