

Employees Reap Rewards for Safety Performance

GPS employees and contractors enjoyed another healthy luncheon in the canteen on Friday 12 March in recognition of achieving 90 continuous days free from recordable injuries.

General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher congratulated employees on their achievement not only for the past 90 days but on their efforts throughout 2009.

“We all should take some pride in our safety performance during the past 15 months. Not only did we set out on the ZIP journey together but, the actual safety results were very good.”

“While we still have some way to go we certainly need to keep up the efforts that we are putting into safety here at GPS. It is also important to celebrate our safety achievements,” Shoey said.

In recognition of the 2009 safety performance all permanent employees and long term STE’s will be provided with a good quality lightweight jacket recognising this result.

“These jackets are just an outward sign of the importance of a safe work place and the contribution that is required from all of us. Again, many thanks for your efforts.”



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Charities Fund Provides Much Needed Support

Mainstay Gladstone and District Respite Care Association and the Gladstone Chaplaincy Program were two of four worthwhile charities to recently receive donations from the Gladstone Community Charities Fund.

A donation of \$5,000 was made to Mainstay which was used to purchase a front loader washing machine, a stainless steel wall oven and a dishwasher. Mainstay provides

short term respite care for people with a disability.

Assistant Coordinator of Mainstay, Robyn Whitmore was very appreciative to receive the funding and wished to thank charity fund members for their kind support.

“We are extremely grateful for the new white goods and I would sincerely like to thank all members for their support,” Robyn said.

Other donations were also made to the Central Committee on Aging (\$1,000) and Evenglow (\$500).

Since its formation in 1982 the Charities Fund has donated over \$370,000 to charities in Gladstone. To ensure the good work continues we would like to see more NRG employees supporting the fund.

Currently there are 78 members in the fund out of a total workforce over 300 so if you are not a member I would encourage you to consider joining. Minimum donation is a dollar per week and all contributions are tax deductible.

Employees who would like to contribute to the fund can contact Natalie Hurst in the Human Resources section. Employees who would like to know more about the fund can contact the current committee members Archie Lowe, Doug Thomas, John Leinster, Gary Macnamara, Eric Eldridge, Cheryl Jackson, Ray Waghorn and John Lynch.



The Gladstone District Schools Chaplaincy Program was also given a boost this month with \$2,500 donated to the program. The funds will go directly towards supporting the three high school and six primary chaplains in the Gladstone region.

Charities Fund representative, Cheryl Jackson checks out the new wall oven with Mainstay Assistant Co-ordinator, Robyn Whitmore.

From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

I would like to take a few moments to reflect on one facet of our involvement in the Gladstone Community and indeed the wider world around us. One of the key areas that GPS supports the Gladstone community is through the NRG Community Assistance Program. This Program is aimed at supporting and enhancing the quality of life for members of the Gladstone community by providing financial assistance directly to disadvantaged groups, youth welfare, education, environmental programs and major community events. The program focuses on the following areas:

1. Disadvantaged Groups - We support programs that remove barriers to self-sufficiency and strengthen the institutions that serve them. This includes the economically or socially disadvantaged and people with special needs such as Roseberry Community Services. Each year NRG contributes more than \$6,000 to the Gladstone Salvation Army and \$6,500 to the Gladstone Community Charities Fund. Since its formation in 1983 the Charities Fund, which is sponsored by GPS employees, has donated more than \$370,000 to charities in the Gladstone area.
2. Youth Welfare - We support initiatives that improve the health and welfare of young people. These programs promote long-term solutions and prevention efforts.
3. Education – We support education initiatives to improve school safety as well as activities that contribute to the development of science and technology especially among our young people.
4. Environment - We seek to invest in activities that preserve natural resources and programs that provide hands on activities to improve the environment.
5. Community Events – We support major community events that strengthen community involvement and promote the values of equity, diversity and equality of opportunity for **all** people. NRG employees are also actively involved in major community events such as
 - Clean-up Australia Day – We have been participating in this event for 19 years and are its largest supporter in Gladstone of this event

- The Gladstone Harbour Festival Raft Race - NRG has supported the festival for 17 years and this year contributed \$11,000 in sponsorship for the raft race.
- Ecofest – NRG has actively supported this Gladstone Regional Council environmental initiative for more than 12 years.
- Relay for Life – NRG employees have been a major supporter of this cancer fundraiser since its inception seven years ago.

As part of the Community Assistance Program NRG also actively supports the GPS Recreation Club activities and provides \$6,000 assistance to the Children's Christmas Party.

Beyond the Community Assistance Program, NRG contributes money and resources in supporting Gladstone initiatives such as:

1. Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP). PCIMP fosters the coordination of monitoring activities among stakeholders and disseminates this information to improve our capacity to manage our natural resources in a sustainable and balanced way.
2. Gladstone Schools Engineering Skills Center (GSESC). GSESC is an engineering training facility located on-site at GPS. GSESC has been developed to incorporate "real life" experiences within an actual industrial setting with a view to providing a seamless pathway for Year 11 and 12 students interested in a career in the engineering sector. Comprising industry standard equipment, GSESC operates to industry regulations and offers students a "real world" environment delivering work readiness as well as nationally recognised competencies.

GSESC was the 2007 winner of the Australian Training Awards. GPS not only provides the site for GSESC, but also provides money and more significantly a vast array of material support and expertise to the Centre. We also provide "on the job" training as part of the whole program. The results from GSESC tell us just how successful this investment in our young people is with:

- Greater than 85% of students transitioning into full time apprenticeships,

- 97% of graduates transitioning into work
 - A greater percentage of GSESC students completing their apprenticeship as compared to the national average
3. Gladstone Industry Leadership Group (GILG) – GPS has been a major driver behind GILG which is trying to bridge the gap that seems to exist between big industry and the community. Since its inception in 2008 GILG has focused on issues associated with Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone but is now reaching out to other community issues.
 4. Central Queensland University (CQUniversity) – GPS people have been heavily involved in supporting the Gladstone Campus of CQUniversity in developing and supporting programs that give people in our community a chance to advance their careers and employment opportunities.

From time to time we have also made one off donations from the General Manager's budget. In most cases these donations have been made without publicity. We will continue to do this when and where it is appropriate.

From time to time these donations have been for issues beyond Gladstone such as the recent Haiti Earthquake. GPS also supported victims of the horrendous Victorian Busfires a little over a year ago. Such donations may raise the question as to why are we supporting people outside of Gladstone? While this does not happen very often the fact remains we live in a very lucky country with a safe and comfortable lifestyle. However, we remain part of the great body of mankind and if we do not recognise the sufferings of our fellow man, we diminish our own worth and are less of a human being for that.

So, I think we as the people of Gladstone Power Station should take some pride in our care for and role in things that are important to the wellbeing of the place we all live in and the people who live here with us.

GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards

SHOEY
Glenn Schumacher
General Manager

NRG Leads the Way in Clean-up

Thanks to the 96 volunteers who participated in this year's Clean-up Day on Sunday 7 March.

Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Community George Bennetts said it was a pleasing turnout from the NRG crew.

"NRG has supported our own employees and their families in the clean-up effort for the past 19 years so it was no surprise to see a good turnout again this year," George said.

The group scoured 23 kilometres of arterial roads throughout Gladstone.

First time volunteers Steven and Kylie Heit said clean-up day was a great way for the community to show their support for the environment.

"It's not only a great team building exercise but there are major benefits for the community in which we live and work," Steve said.

Following the clean-up volunteers returned to the Lions Park where they enjoyed a well earned steak and cool drink courtesy of chief chefs Shoey and George and Joy.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of Clean-up Australia Day with over 588,000 volunteers removing 15,560 tonnes of rubbish across Australia.



New Barricades and Cordons Procedure



Nathan Wadell checks out the new orange flagged bunting which has replaced the black tiger tape on site.

The new barricades and cordons procedure is currently being introduced to the workforce through workgroup presentations and discussion.

The procedure will come into operation from 6 April and represents some large and important changes to the way we handle barricading and cordoning at NRG.

Some of the changes are very visual and include the replacement of the traditional yellow and black 'tiger tape' which has

been used at GPS for many years with the orange flagged bunting as seen on many other sites around Gladstone.

The tagging system has been updated to include larger, more visible tags with more space for information.

Other changes include defining barricades and cordons to reflect legislation and also defining the responsibilities of all parties involved in barricaded or cordoned work.

Meet Our New Apprentices

**Aaron Hanrahan –
Mechanical Apprentice**



Born in Rockhampton, Aaron attended Star of the Sea Primary School and Chanel College.

Aaron has previously gained mechanical work experience with Tasman Warajay, Walz Construction, Forgacs and NRG.

He enjoys rugby league, being outdoors, playing the guitar and watching Flight of the Conchords on TV.

**Jennifer Galland –
Mechanical Apprentice**

Born in Kogorah, NSW, Jennifer has represented Gladstone in Oz tag while her other interests include motorbikes and Play Station 2.

Jennifer says the best thing her parents taught her was to “do what you want not what others want you to do.”

Jennifer attended Tannum Sands High before gaining work experience with the GSESC, Forgacs and NRG.



**Jacob Mills –
Mechanical Apprentice**



A central Queensland AFL representative, Jacob has trained at the Brisbane Lions Academy for AFL.

Jacob enjoys surfing and blues and roots music and would like to live at Lennox Head in NSW one day.

Prior to joining NRG Jacob attended Tannum Sands High School and enjoyed work experience at the GSESC.

**Matthew Pickels -
Mechanical Apprentice**

Matthew says getting an apprenticeship at the end of Year 10 is his greatest accomplishment to date. His main interests outside of work include four wheel driving, wakeboarding and motorbikes.

Matthew has completed work experience at Berg Engineering and previously enjoyed a favourite holiday in Perisher.

Matthew was born in Blackwater and attended Tannum Sands State High School.



**Kris Fleming –
Boilermaking Apprentice**



As a child Kris always wanted to be a bull rider but these days he prefers to spend his time riding motor bikes, quad bikes and working on the farm.

Growing up in Ubobo, Kris has previously gained work experience at Berg Engineering and a butcher shop in Rockhampton.

Kris has enjoyed holidaying on the Gold Coast and when at home he likes to cook a steak on the barbecue.

**Luke Critchley –
Electrical Apprentice**



Luke has represented Gladstone in under 18 rugby league and his other interests include cars, motor bikes, fishing and boxing.

Luke attended Kin Kora Primary School and Toolooa State High.

Luke says as a child he always wanted to be an auto electrician the hardest thing he has ever done was learning to play the bass guitar. He has enjoyed work experience at NRG and spent two years training at the GSESC.

**Shannon Polkinghorne –
Electrical Apprentice**

A born and bred local, Shannon attended Tannum Sands Primary and Tannum High..

He has represented CQ at rugby league and his other interests include going to the beach and skateboarding. As a child Shannon was keen on becoming a Jet Pilot.

Shannon has previously enjoyed work experience at Thomas and Coffey and Watson Engineering.



**Nathan Waddell –
Electrical Apprentice**



In his spare time Nathan enjoys listening to his favourite bands, the Butterfly Effect and Dead Letter Circus.

He has represented Gladstone in soccer and surf boat rowing while his other interests include rugby league, fishing, guitar and going to the gym.

Prior to joining NRG Nathan gained valuable work experience at QAL and Downers.

Nathan was educated at Gladstone State High School and says he would like to live in Tahiti one day.

**Ciaron Fallon –
Electrical Apprentice**

Born and bred in Gladstone Ciaron says his greatest accomplishment to date is completing the Kokoda Track in New Guinea.

His past achievements have included representing CQ in rugby league and cricket.

Ciaron enjoys fishing and outdoor activities and has previously completed work experience at NRG, QAL and Berg Engineering.



Graham Lester Celebrates 25 Years



Graham is proud of having achieved 25 years at the station.

Fuel plant operator Graham Lester celebrated 25 years working at NRG on 25 March.

Born and raised in Gladstone, Graham completed his schooling at Gladstone State High School.

He began work at GPS as an administration cleaner working under Brian Robson. Following the sale of the station in 1994 his position was made redundant and he was given two options, to either leave or take up a position in the coal plant, so he decided to take the latter.

He began to work at the coal plant under Morrie Sweeny, initially working on day shift for two years before transferring over to the 12 hour shifts roster in 1997.

Graham recalls his first job in the coal plant was cleaning out the bunkers with compressed air.

"One thing I've noticed is that the plant is much more environmentally friendly now. We now hose the bunkers out, catching the coal in pits. Also safety has improved a lot compared to when I first started," Graham said.

"NRG is a great place to work and the blokes on "C" shift are a terrific bunch," he said.

Graham is very knowledgeable when it comes to the coal plant and he is always willing to learn new skills to keep up with the constant upgrading of the plant. During his time at GPS he has witnessed many changes in the coal unloading and bunkering process.

Graham is married to Magdalena and the couple have enjoyed spending time traveling overseas.

Turbine Hall Wall Sheeting Recommences

After nearly 18 months break the final section of wall sheeting on the turbine hall is being replaced. In 2008 the southern and western ends of the wall sheeting were completed but the northern end of the turbine hall was delayed due to other priority work.

In late February this year EB Plumbing commenced work on the turbine hall north east side wall but progress has been slow due to the inclement weather.

"Originally it was planned to have the work completed by Easter but now it is hoped to complete the work by the end of April weather conditions permitting," Project Manager Allan Timm said.

Once the wall sheeting on the turbine hall has been completed the next major wall sheeting project will be the coal transfer towers in 2011.

EB Plumbing complete work on turbine hall wall sheeting.



Oil Storage Shed Upgraded

The oil storage shed between the turbine hall and the main workshop is currently being upgraded to bring it up to modern standards.

Superintendent Maintenance Systems, Michael Hills said the new facility would be completed by mid April at a cost of around \$130,000.

"We have gutted the old oil shed and are in the process of painting the floors and adding new racks with oil dispensers and metering systems. Our intention is to ensure that the handling of oil on site meets the required cleanliness standards."

"If we are able to keep contaminants and moisture out of the oil and lubricate effectively we will have a better chance of prolonging the life of our equipment on site and this (oil shed upgrade) was identified by our lubrication

Steve Donohoe and Peter Christopolous check out the old oil shed which has been gutted to make way for a new oil storage facility.

PSE's as what was needed to be done as the first part of this process" Michael said.

"The input and hard work of getting the shed cleaned out and a temporary oil storage area set up is a credit to the guys that came in and got stuck into it and I really thank them for that"

Michael is part of a condition management team which are looking at ways to improve lubrication standards and condition monitoring on site.



Refurbishment of “A” Route at Coal Unloading Begins

Following the successful completion of the refurbishment of B Route Coal Unloading in late 2009 work on the refurbishment of “A” Route at the coal unloading facility commenced on 1 March a month earlier than planned.

Fairbairn Engineering Services Project Manager, Gordon Low who is managing the coal unloading upgrade project, said the refurbishment of “A” route started earlier than originally planned because of the successful running of B Route and the confidence shown from the coal unloading operators in the refurbished plant.

Gordon said the upgrade of A Route would last for several months with the recommissioning of the route expected to begin early July. The contractors who refurbished B Route, MIE for electrical works and Monadelphous for mechanical works have also been retained for the work.

“The station will continue to accept trains through the night to allow work to be completed through the day with the exception of a total shutdowns for abrasive blasting and painting in April and June,” Gordon said

The shortage of coal due to the wet weather has also added to the logistics of this project with additional deliveries expected in March.



Gordon Low and Mark Fleming inspecting one of the four new B Route feeders.

Where are our Seven Units?

Few people would disagree that the human brain is the most powerful piece of ‘machinery’ we have on the planet. It has the ability to create the most wondrous situations and simultaneously has the power to make choices that could destroy everything on this planet.

Every second of every day our brain controls thousands of processes inside our body without our conscious awareness, giving us the time and space to enjoy our life. As powerful as it is, the human brain is almost useless if it is not switched on, that is if all seven Conscious Units are not focussed on the task at hand.

How powerful our brain is becomes irrelevant if we do not use it effectively.

We have all experienced doing something while thinking of something else and then becoming aware of where we are and wondering how we got there.

Have you ever driven into your driveway and had no memory of the drive home or have you used a mobile phone whilst driving or walking down a set of stairs. On reflection we can all relate to those times when our Seven Units were not focussed on the tasks at hand.

We should all keep this fresh in our minds during the course of the year and use it as inspiration to help focus our seven units on the tasks ahead. In doing so we can help eliminate incidents that would prevent us from enjoying our Personal Big 5.

Service Register – April 2010

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 April.

33 years	Gary Matthews
32 years	Bob Bowden
30 years	Greg Jamieson, John Kunze
28 years	Andrew Austin
27 years	John McGarrow, Garry Coleborn, David Tompkins
24 years	Paul Andrewartha
12 years	Jay Wilson, Bernie Lawson

NRG Sponsors Asset Management Conference



Ben Hayden, Clinton Windsor and Shoey were happy to pose for a photo at the Asset Management Conference

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher and Manager Technical Services, Ben Hayden were keynote speakers at the Conference on Asset and Maintenance Management held at CQUniversity last month.

The purpose of the conference was to showcase some of the latest developments in asset management and bring practitioners together to help provide solutions to asset management issues.

“Organisations like us are under constant pressure to get maximum performance and value from our assets so these conferences are a good way of bringing people up to date with what’s happening in the field,” Glenn said.

Another key note speaker at the conference was former NRG engineer, Malcolm Leinster who spoke on the Application of Quantitative Risk Assessment for Decision Making.

Getting Personal with Accounting Clerk Natasha Torrisi

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 at the power station very welcoming, friendly, helpful, and chatty. I instantly felt part of the team.

What have you enjoyed about your new role?

I've enjoyed the new challenges and learning new things. This is my first time working at a power station and I have found it very interesting. I have also found safety to be a big part of the culture here and it's been good to work in a place that is very safety conscious.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

My last job was at a construction company in Gladstone where I was employed for four years. My duties there included accounts payable and managing purchasing contracts.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

I saw this as a long term position. It offered security and it was different to what I have been doing at my previous employment.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

I enjoy camping and four wheel driving with my family. I like to spend lots of time with

my children. My eldest son plays soccer and I like to play hockey.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

I like the small town feel that Gladstone has and that everything is in close proximity. It doesn't take me long to get anywhere and I like that Brisbane isn't that far away. I also enjoy going to the beach.

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

I was born and raised in Rockhampton, moving to Gladstone nine years ago with my family.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

I am married to Rob who works at Barney Point Coal Terminal. I have two sons, Josh 13, and Joel 11.

My worst habit is.....

I like to be on time.

At home I like to cook....

Lasagne

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

To Fiji on my honeymoon. I've also just been on a cruise with my family to the South Pacific.

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

Gardening and painting.

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

Raising my kids. I hope that I am doing the best, teaching them good values and morals so they grow up to be the best they can.

Cooling Water Gantry Crane Stairs Upgraded.

The Hazard Reduction program is well underway again with many new safety reduction projects to be completed in 2010.

The first one of these was the repairs to the ladders leading up the top of the Cooling Water Gantry Crane on Units 5 and 6. The crane ladders have been reported faulty by the electrical section and noted by Kevin Creagh and Cameron Poole from the Auxiliaries section.



"The ladders did not meet the Australian Standards and were deemed a safety hazard so we decided to replace them," Rick Thomson said.

Walz Maintenance work on the replacement CW Stairs

Drawings were completed by Total Drafting and with the work carried out by Walz Maintenance.

Jacob Represents Qld Country in AFL

Gladstone Power Station first year mechanical apprentice Jacob Mills spent time in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast last month representing Qld Country in Australian Rules.

Jacob spent nine days playing in the Under 18's AFL competition with two other players from Gladstone. They trained in Brisbane in the lead up to the competition on the coast.

Currently playing fullback for local club BITS Saints Jacob has previously represented the central region twice before, in under 14's and under 16's teams.

"We made the Grand Final on both occasions but unfortunately we weren't able to come up with a win," Jacob said

Jacob was first introduced to Aussie Rules four years ago when a friend asked him to come along and play. Since then he has been to Brisbane three times to train at the Brisbane Lions Academy which fosters young rising talent.

"I got the chance to meet up with many of the Lion's players including Luke Power, Simon Black, Jamie Charman and Jonathan Brown which was a great thrill," he said.



Jacob recently represented Queensland Country in Australian Rules.

Archie Wins Earthwatch Photo Competition

Congratulations to Plant Services Employee, Archie Lowe for his winning image taken on Earthwatch's Climate Change in the Rainforest Project which Archie was a volunteer in June last year.

Archie joined Dr Steven Williams in the Atherton based project to help monitor the impacts of climate change on a diverse array of forest species.

As a volunteer, Archie was involved in bird surveys, leaf litter trap emptying and insect sampling, taking environmental measurements and spotlighting for frogs and possums.

During his time participating in the project Archie also had the time to visit the butterfly farm in Kuranda where his award winning butterfly image was taken.

"Working with Dr Williams and his team and visiting the butterfly farm were all

memorable experiences and I would thoroughly recommend the project to anyone," Archie said on his return.

Although the camera that took the winning image has since been lost to an unfortunate water-based incident, Archie still thinks fondly on his experience.

Archie's winning butterfly image has won him two places on Earthwatch's new one-day project "Turtles in Trouble" which is investigating the impacts of marine debris ingestion on turtles.

Archie is planning to take his fiancée Janet.

"Janet and I are pretty excited. We're both interested in the environment and are looking forward to learning more about the threats to sea turtles and what scientists are doing to help understand this problem," he said.

Where are they now? – Kerry Banks

What period did you work at the station?

I started with the Queensland Power Industry in September 1979 working at the Callide Power Station. I then moved to the Gladstone Power Station in February 1980. I retired in January 2008 spending much of the last 18 months on annual and sick leave.

Tell us about your career at the station and who were some of the other people you enjoyed working with at the time?

Initially I worked as an APA (Auxiliary Plant Attendant) on "D" Shift and learnt a lot about the workings of the station from people such as Alan Miller, Greg Carlon and Gary Collins. I moved on to be a Unit Controller and during this time I had the chance to update many of the operating procedures. I enjoyed training new operators such as Mark Moran on the control panel because they would keep asking questions designed to make you think about how things really worked. For the last 10 years I worked as a Shift Superintendent which gave me the opportunity to work on projects as well as working with many of the day workers. All the people I worked with were very interesting and professional in their duties and a great bunch of people to interact with.

What are your fondest memories of working at the station?

I remember fondly the early days on "D" Shift when we had more than 20 people on each shift. We were quite social in those days with regular shift parties and afternoon shift drinks in the car park. I got a lot of enjoyment out of problem solving faults with the plant and always had a lot of respect for George Ryan and Frank Moody who unselfishly helped when I first started as a Shift Supervisor.

What have you done since leaving GPS and what are you enjoying in your retirement?

Lyn and I have been travelling around Australia since I retired, stopping in Ayr on a couple of occasions to help family. My brother in law has an electrical contracting business in Ayr so I helped him for a couple of months last year while we were waiting for winter to pass down south. We have also holidayed in New Zealand and Singapore just to have a break from travelling. While in the Kimberly Region we went on a cruise along the Kimberly Coast and were impressed with the incredible scenery. We have now purchased a block of land in Ayr and hope to start building a house midyear. We still intend to travel but will now have a home base.

You spent a couple of years converting your Japanese touring coach into a "one bedroom unit on wheels." How have you enjoyed travelling and living on the road?

The motorhome has worked well for us and we have enjoyed travelling around Australia. I believe we could travel for 20 years and there would be still places to see. We have found that the people you meet really make the travelling worth while and we have made some real good friends over happy hour in places with million dollar views. One thing we discovered when we started travelling was to have a drink with the other travellers at the nightly stopover. A lot of information is exchanged about what to see in the area and what not to miss.

Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

I have kept in contact with Wayne Franks and Cameron Purdon while travelling. We



Kerry has enjoyed travelling in his motorhome.

ran across Paul Borchardt in Sydney as he was staying at the same caravan park as we were. I have been lucky enough to have been in Gladstone a couple of times when the Production team were having a morning meeting. By the way Joel, I'll be passing through Gladstone mid April so if there is another morning meeting I am keen to catch up with everyone again.

Tell us a little bit about your family?

My two daughters are currently living in Brisbane. Tamara and her husband have a 14 month old son. We were proud to attend her graduation ceremony last August where she gained her PhD in Psychology. Amanda and her partner are having their first child in the beginning of April and will then move to Cloncurry. I also have three step daughters and three step grand children who live in Townsville, Mackay and the Hunter Valley. The geographical spread of the family should keep us travelling well into our old age.

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

Local Crews Battle Elements in Surfboat Rowing Classic

Second year electrical apprentice Nelson Corones and Blake Neaton (son of Kris) were two members of the Tannum Sands Under19 Surfboat who successfully competed in the Big Wave Classic in Piha, New Zealand last month.

Despite finishing out of the placings the Under 19 team performed creditably in the five metre swells in the Day of Giants competition.

Tannum Sands took two crews, the Under 19's and the open, to the two day invitational event where they challenged New Zealand's best.

"Tannum has a reputation for producing quick surfboat crews even though we were beaten up by the big swells our open crew managed to overcome the conditions and take out the final," Blake said.

Blake who has been surfboat rowing for three and half years says his ultimate goal is to win an Australian Titles medal one day.

"I used to do nippers with Nelson and we both got interested in it at the same time," Blake said.

Surfboat competition normally involves teams on an oar driven boat rowing out and back to a turning can around 500 metres off shore.

Blake enjoyed competing in the Big Wave Classic in New Zealand.

