

Furnace Ash Investigations Underway for Masonry Block Manufacture

Investigations are currently in progress to determine whether furnace ash from Gladstone Power Stations boilers can be used to produce lightweight masonry blocks for the building industry.

Superintendent Production Commercial, Tim Danby said NRG was approached by masonry company, Adbri Masonry in 2009 to conduct trials on our furnace ash.

“Adbri have successfully produced blocks made from furnace ash in NSW so they saw a market for a similar product in Queensland.”

Following discussions a series of trials were conducted in late 2009 with 36 different mixes created containing furnace ash from 40% to 100%. During the trials the optimum mix for the different markets was identified based on such variables as weight, strength, fire rating, insulating properties and colour.

As sand is a high input cost in the block making process the aim was to substitute flyash for sand and still retain the current block properties.

Following the trials it was found that the new blocks had many physical and marketing benefits including -

- Lighter weight
- More blocks could be loaded on each truck load
- Lower transport costs
- Better thermal insulating properties



Adbri Masonry representatives Joe Larrarte and Peter Hurley discuss block production trials with Tim Danby.

- Faster block laying and less physical fatigue
- It is a “greener” product with less natural resources used and a better reuse of waste.

In the near future it is planned to negotiate a contract with Adbri Masonry for flyash which will allow them to produce the bricks for the Queensland market.

Emergency Response Team Put Through Its Paces



The Emergency Response Team hone their rescue skills last month.

The GPS Emergency Response Team was put through its paces last month during a simulated exercise near the station precipitators.

Team spokesperson Andrew Sibley said there had been a number of recent incidents in other workplaces where workers had to be rescued from a JLG following the failure of ground controls.

“As this was something we hadn’t practiced before we decided to have a simulated rescue from a JLG to make sure our skills were up to speed.”

“The simulation was a great success. It gave us the opportunity to try out different types of haulage systems and we feel confident we would be able to handle a situation like this should it arise in the future,” Andrew said.

To ensure their skills are kept up to date members of the Emergency Response Team spend time training every week practising their fire, rescue or first aid skills.

Countdown to the Outage

This year has started furiously with all of us focused on replicating our successes of the previous year. Safe day boards are being erected, the lube oil store refurbished, 5S being adopted by more workgroups, managing the coal supply crisis, new employees joining our teams (and some leaving) as new challenges are met and improvements implemented.

It is a changing and improving world.

With some achievements already under our belts for 2010 such as the wall sheeting on the northern end of the turbine house and the delivery of the Spare Generator Transformer, it is time to direct our attention to the busiest period of the year, one that consumes our time, our people and our money - the overhaul.

The overhaul commences in earnest on 9 July. There has been considerable planning for this project to be a success in terms of quality repairs within budget and without injury. I ask all employees to not only look after your own safety but also your mate's safety.

The Unit 2 overhaul this year will also contain a number of milestones. The first round tubes from the economizer to the airheater will be reclad, the feedpump turbine will be overhauled for the first time since the early 1990s and the second ash hopper will be installed. These activities along with the regular work will make for a busy Unit 2 overhaul. For Peter Filtness who has looked after turbine overhauls since the mid 1980's it will be his last as he is retiring after this overhaul.

Vale John Kunze

Powerstation employees and colleagues were saddened to hear of the passing of Ash Management Specialist John Kunze on 5 May. John lost his battle with cancer which he had been fighting for five years.

John was a valued member of the production team having worked at the station for 30 years. He played a critical role in assisting GPS in establishing Best Practice for ash management and he almost single handedly managed the off site ash disposal system.

His was a highly skilled negotiator who worked closely with the land holder group to achieve very good outcomes for the station. This group included government departments, Cement Australia and the Gladstone Ports Corporation.

He was trusted by senior management to make the right decisions and accordingly went about his business in a very professional and effective way. Amongst his many achievements, one of the most prominent was the reclamation of Area 7, which is now in its final stages prior to hand over to the Gladstone Regional Council.

John's passion for land restoration also extended to the management of the family cattle property. He also loved to fly his Cessna 172 plane when time permitted.

John will be missed by all at the station and by those who worked with him in the general business community. He was highly respected for his fairness and integrity.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John's wife Nancy and their daughter Kate.



Brad Greer Honoured

NRG Superintendent Risk Management, Brad Greer was elected as a Life Member of the Risk Management Institution of Australasia (RMIA) last month.

Brad joins an illustrious group of 11 other Life Members who have



done much to support the growth of the risk management profession both within Australia and internationally.

Brad was ecstatic to be given life membership.

"It's really good to be recognised by the membership for the hard work I have put into the

Brad was recently elected as a life member of the Risk Management Institution of Australia.

association and I'm looking forward to continuing my support into the future," Brad said.

Brad had spent 20 years of dedicated service to both RMIA and The Association of Risk and Insurance Managers of Australasia (ARIMA), in various positions on the Board, culminating in the Presidency of both organisations. Brad was both the last President of ARIMA prior to unification and the founding President of RMIA. Today the organisation boasts a membership of nearly 1800 people.

In the pivotal role Brad played in the process of unification between ARIMA and AIRM, he worked tirelessly on behalf of members of both organisations towards the ultimate goal of the unification. It is because of these efforts and his various other roles on the boards of ARIMA and RMIA that Brad was awarded Life Membership of the RMIA.

Prior to joining NRG, Brad had worked as a Risk Systems Strategist with QR, Risk and Compliance Manager with Brisbane Airport Corporation and Risk Management Coordinator with Stonnington City Council (in Melbourne).

Don Kerr Farewells Gladstone

Former General Manager Don Kerr farewelled GPS for the second time last month after resigning from his position as a casual tour guide. Don, along with a number of other GPS retirees, had been providing information tours of the station through the Gladstone Information Centre since 2003.

After 35 years in Gladstone Don and his wife Lesley have decided to move to a retirement village in Cairns which will also allow them to be closer to Lesley's mum and one of their three sons.

"We are looking forward to joining up with the local genealogy society and joining in the village activities," Don said at his farewell function.

Prior to retiring in June 1995 Don had spent 36 years in the electricity industry commencing as a Shift Engineer at Kareeya

Power Station in 1959. He was appointed Operations Superintendent at GPS in 1975 and General Manager in 1988.

During his 20 year association with GPS, Don was responsible for overseeing the commissioning of all six units. Following the SEQEB dispute in 1985 Don was instrumental in improving industrial relations between management and the unions and also helping the station to move forward on a technical level.

Following the sale of the station in 1994, Don also

took an active role in the transition process working closely with the new management team from NRG.

George congratulates Don Kerr on his many years of service to Gladstone Power Station.



Earthwatch Fellowship Winners Announced

The opportunity to participate in an all expenses holiday and gain a unique environmental experience awaits NRG employees Kevin Ryan and David Lahey who were recently announced as this year's Earthwatch winners.

Kevin said he was looking forward to taking up his two week fellowship on 10 October which will look at climate change in the rainforests of the Atherton Tableland.

"Spending this time in a world heritage area and having experts teach me about such a

diverse array of native forest animals, will be one of those treasured 'once in a lifetime experiences' " Kevin said.

The expedition will allow Kevin the opportunity to experience the Atherton Tablelands magnificent rainforests and study a diverse array of forest animals at close quarters including birds, reptiles, mammals, frogs, plants and insects.

As a volunteer Kevin will be helping to set insect traps, trap and release small mammals, search for lizards, collect bird abundance data and perform night time spotlight surveys for nocturnal mammals and reptiles.

David Lahey will spend one week in early January participating in the "Vanishing Frogs" program.

David hopes to learn more about how we can help to protect the many different native frog species that exist in Central Queensland.

David will be working with Associate Professor Michael Mahony from the University of Newcastle exploring the fertile mountain forests of the Hunter Valley region. His role will include collecting data on frog populations to help scientists understand how they cope with chytrid infections. The team will look at why some frogs are dying while others are flourishing.

Earthwatch Institute is an international non-profit organisation, which engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education. Each year Earthwatch enables approximately 4000 volunteers to assist in 140 field research projects around the world.



General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher congratulates Kev Ryan and David Lahey on winning the Earthwatch fellowships.

Raft Race a Great Success

The twelfth annual Gladstone Harbour Festival NRG Great Raft Race was a great success with 20 rafts featuring in this year's race.

The colourful flotilla featured an impressive array of rafts comprising a floating castle, a stealth bomber replica, a vessel infested with large rabbits and NRG's very own Sidchrome tool box.

Despite finishing out of the major prizes the NRG crew can be well pleased with their efforts. Thanks to the crew of Michael Zimmerlie, Chris Proude, Jake Jefferies, Jamie McLean, Trent Hall, Kris Ivermie, Cameron Smith, Stuart Norris, Brodie Huth and Ryan

Pickles for the many hours spent preparing the raft for the event.

The huge crowd lining the banks of Auckland Creek were treated to some riotous fun with water cannon and flour bombs raining down on the contestants.

Major prize winners this year included Golding Contractors (Most Creative Raft) Yaralla Fitness Club (Most Entertaining Crew) and Zinc Radio (First Across the Line).



Graham Tunes into a New Hobby



Graham has enjoyed hand crafting each of his guitars.

Electrical Projects Specialist Graham Long has always enjoyed the beauty of timber and turning wood into fine works of art.

Over the years he has dabbled in making a number of timber creations including a pine hutch, numerous coffee tables, clocks and even a double bed.

More recently he was introduced to guitar making by a friend and fell in love with the prospect of not only making them but learning to play at the same time.

Graham admits to having spent “hundreds of hours” meticulously hand crafting each guitar with various timbers such as Maple, Sassafras, Tiger Myrtle and Rosewood, drawn from all over the world.

As Graham readily points out the different timbers are used to make the fret boards, necks, sound boards and main body of the guitar. As well as this there’s the metal frets, strings and tuners which are also sourced from overseas.

Guitar making involves bending timber to make the different body shapes. Graham has made a number of moulds for this purpose and uses silicone heating blankets to evenly heat the wood while bending.

The bodies are then scraped, sanded and further sanded before being sprayed with up to twenty coats of lacquer. Precision placement of the metal frets is required to ensure that the guitar is tuned correctly.

Due to the different types of timber used Graham said each guitar had a different tone giving it a unique quality.

To date Graham has completed three guitars and has four bodies and a mandola (similar to a mandolin) which he hopes to complete in the next few months.

Since attending the Imbil Folk Music Festival Graham has had many enquiries from people wanting guitars made, but at this stage he is not planning to build any for sale.

“I have eight grandchildren and I would like to be able to give them one each when they are teenagers to help stimulate an interest in music,” he said.

When not tied up making his masterpieces in his backyard shed Graham has also found time to teach himself how to play.

“I’ve always liked the idea of sitting around a camp fire and being able to sing a few tunes so hopefully I’ll be able to do that in the near future.”



Graham hopes to complete the mandola in the next few months.

Zip Posters Help Reinforce Safety Message

Employees entering the station through the main gates will have noticed the new ZIP (Zero Incident Process) safety posters which have been produced to increase the visibility of ZIP on site.



Archie Lowe checks out the new Zip posters which have been designed to remind employees about ZIP concepts.

Manager Health, Safety Environment and Community, George Bennetts said the posters were designed to remind employees about ZIP concepts as they arrive for work.

“It’s important for employees to be reminded about what we learnt and why we want to work safely. It reminds us to focus our seven units on the tasks ahead and why we need to remember our Personal Big 5. If we are to achieve our goal of a zero incident workplace then ZIP needs to be part of how we think and act,” George said.

To encourage people’s interest George said that it was important to keep the messages very simple and to use our own employees in the photographs.

It is intended that the ZIP posters will be rotated every month on Gates 7 and 9 and on the main gate.

The ZIP posters are an initiative of the ZIP Implementation team who are working through a number of suggestions from the groups who attended the ZIP training.

Farewell Larry Brushe



Steve Lewis congratulates Larry Brushe on his upcoming retirement.

Friends and workmates farewelled Larry Brushe last month after a 32 year career in the electricity industry.

Larry joined GPS in October 1978 as an assistant mechanical engineer working under the direction of Ian Harvey. Prior to this Larry was employed with Evans Deakin who were involved in the construction of the feed heating and condensing plant at GPS.

In 1981 Larry was seconded to Collinsville Power Station for what was initially a three month period but turned out to be three

years. After a further six months at Tarong Power Station Larry returned to GPS in 1984 working in the ash plant area.

In 1985 Larry was promoted to the role of Superintendent Site Services. In this role he was responsible for managing the cleaning, welding and gardening crews. Following a reorganisation in 1988 Larry moved into the Engineering section under the newly appointed Superintendent Bob Truscott.

When the fabric filter project kicked off in 1994 Larry was the GPS representative on the project, working closely with Greg Zieth from Minenco to ensure the \$40 million project was a success.

In 1998 Larry moved into the project engineering group with John James where his responsibilities included project management of the boiler refurbishment and HT reheaters. During this time Larry, together with Malcolm Leinster, established a partnering agreement with CBH, the first of its kind at Gladstone.

Following the reorganisation in 2000 Larry was appointed to the position of Technical Services Mechanical Superintendent. In this role one of Larry's responsibilities

was the implementation of the drawing management package, Curator. The system allowed employees to find, view and print drawings from their local computer.

Larry said the highlight of his time at GPS was not related to a significant event or particular task but more to the people he had worked with over the years.

"I've really appreciated the way people have supported each other over the years. We've had a particularly skilled and interesting workforce here and this has created a good working atmosphere," Larry said.

At his farewell presentation Larry was given a gift of an EPIRB and a \$100 voucher which he used to purchase a new Global Positioning System.

During his retirement Larry and his wife Joy are planning to spend more time working as conservation volunteers and continuing their interests in bushwalking. Many will be aware of Larry's involvement in helping the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rehabilitate Tryon Island, north east of Gladstone.

Employees Take up the Challenge for a Healthier Lifestyle



Sixty NRG employees recently completed the nine week Healthy Weight Challenge.

An initiative of the Wellness Committee, Committee Chairperson Jay Wilson said the challenge was a great success with the sixty employees losing a total of 170 kilos during the nine weeks.

"Each week we had a different theme focusing on some aspect of nutrition or lifestyle. Initially we asked people to keep a diary to help them identify what food and drinks they were eating. From there it was about getting them to make healthier choices and including exercise as part of their daily routine."

"Many of the employees were very supportive of each other and it was fantastic to see so many employees taking part," Jay said.

One person who benefited greatly from the program was Maintenance Planner Michael

Holmes who lost nearly 10kgs during the challenge.

"Towards the end of last year I started putting on weight and not eating correctly so when the wellness committee initiated the Healthy Weight Challenge it was just the kick start I needed to go out and do something."

"The best thing I did was to get out of bed early and get moving. I walk for half an hour on each work day and this has become part of my normal workday routine," Michael said.

Michael's wife was also very supportive in preparing smaller and healthier meals and providing words of encouragement.

"I'm feeling a lot better, have more energy for the whole day and my wife likes the changes in me too," Michael added.

Michael Holmes gets ready to exercise away the kilos.

Pulveriser Rotor Tow Tug to Improve Safety

A new tow tug vehicle recently introduced to the pulveriser workshop will dramatically improve safety for employees who are required to move pulveriser rotors between the pulverisers and the workshop.

Superintendent Pulveriser Overhauls, Derek Smith said the tow tug was very user friendly and had a designed tow capacity of 25 tonnes.

“There are tow connections at the front and rear of the vehicle to give us the flexibility we require. The front is connected to the rotor on removal and installation, while the back connection is used during towing.”

“Previously we used a forklift to move pulveriser rotors between the pulverisers and the workshop but the forklift was never designed to carry out this type of towing task. After talking to crew members we decided that there was a need for a dedicated towing vehicle that would allow for the removal and towing of the pulveriser rotor,” Derek said.

Plant services employee Kurt Roberts was pleased with the performance of the new tow tug.

“It’s made a previously difficult job much easier and safer,” he said.

An ex-military vehicle, the tow tug was manufactured in 2003. Total cost of the vehicle and refurbishment was \$36,000.



Kurt Roberts checks out the new tow tug which will be used to remove pulveriser rotors.

ZIP and Your Wellbeing

From the Zero Incident Process (ZIP), we know that the results we get in life are driven by the behaviours we choose to engage in. These behaviours are strongly guided by our attitudes, which include our thoughts and feelings. As well as its application to safety, this ZIP philosophy can also be used to explain the results we get in any area of life, including our relationships, financial planning, and health.

For example, a common Frame (or attitude) around fitness and exercise is “It’s too hard, I don’t have the time, and I can’t be bothered”. This is likely to produce negative feelings of low motivation, being lethargic, and helplessness. This will often produce behaviours such as procrastination and avoidance of exercise. Over the course of just a few years, it is a fair assumption

that my weight will increase and my overall health and fitness will decline. This is clearly a Garbage Red Zone Frame if my goal is to experience a good quality of life and a healthy retirement with my Personal Big 5.

The only way to change these unwanted results, is to change the Frames I am operating from. A great way to kick start this process is through asking yourself some good quality questions. For instance, “If I want to see my children get married, or become a grandparent one day, what’s my 50% in achieving this?” Remember we’re always in control of what we think, feel, say and do. How can you take control of these four things to create helpful habits and improve your life for the better?

Craig to Assist at WorldSkills Australia National Competition

Boilermaker Craig McGuinness received a pleasant surprise earlier this month when he was selected to be a team leader with the CQ Regional WorldSkills team at the National Competition held in Brisbane from 7-9 May.

Craig will be assisting the CQ team comprising 12 apprentices who will be competing in a variety of categories including fitting, turning and welding and electrical control systems.

The WorldSkills competition is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the apprentices to showcase their skills to leading national and international trade specialists.

Craig was very thankful to NRG for sponsoring his travel and accommodation costs.



Craig is looking forward to being a team leader at the WorldSkills Australia National Competition.

Service Register – May 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 May.

33 years	Ron Anderson, Allan Timm
28 years	Jukka Heikkinen
27 years	John Illingsworth
25 years	Kris Neaton, Brian Courtney
24 years	Graham Wright
23 years	Kylie Parker
21 years	Ray Que

Where are they now? – Ken Rogers

What period did you work at the station?

I was employed at GPS from November 1981 to April 1998. I applied for the job after reading about it in a Melbourne newspaper. Initially I worked for Ray Mantle in maintenance but as I was a tool maker by trade my aim was to work in the machine shop which is where I spent the majority of my time.

What was your role at the station and who were some of the other people you enjoyed working with at the time?

I really enjoyed working with the machine shop as a fitter machinist under Rick Thomason. Other people who were great to work with were Col Johnston, Peter Grundon, Bruce Janson, Roger Beckett and Selwyn Palmer. We were always very busy and everyone used to come up to us with urgent jobs, especially Roger Beckett who always wanted jobs done the day before. A lot of the jobs I did were different from the other routine work. For example we made a special device for machining the inside of CV15 valves.

What are your fondest memories of working at the station?

I really enjoyed the nine day fortnight which enabled us to go camping at Collosum Inlet with friends such as Paul and Dave

Berry on a regular basis. In the early days we could wear shorts to work which made it more comfortable in the hot weather for us mexicans from Victoria.

What do you enjoy about living in Tannum Sands?

It's a great environment at Tannum. Our house faces the sea and we always get a good sea breeze.

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

Since retiring we have travelled around Australia on four occasions with our caravan. I like to camp as much as possible. We particularly enjoyed the Kimberley in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Also we have annual trips to Melbourne to see family. In my spare time I like to read fiction books, especially anything of Bryce Courtenay.

Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

Yes, we like to keep up with Col Johnston and Selwyn Palmer and there are others we see from time to time. We have a lot of friends who are still working and also get together with friends who are retired like us.



Ken with his caravan after a very heavy morning dew at Cape Keraudren (WA) and having to travel over the unmade road back to the highway.

Tell us a little bit about your family?

We have two daughters and two sons between us. We also have nine grandchildren in Victoria and the eldest has just started at University hoping to become a secondary school English teacher. We also have three grandchildren in Gladstone, the eldest one having presented us with our first great grand daughter. My wife Barbara has a mother in Victoria who will be celebrating her 100th birthday in August.

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

History Book Half Complete



Barbara is looking forward to completing the history book manuscript by the end of the year.

Work on the Gladstone Power Station History Book is progressing well with six chapters of the book now complete.

The project began in July 2008 with Dr Barbara Webster from CQUniversity commissioned to write the book. Barbara is a published historian within the Faculty of Arts, Business, Informatics and Education at the Rockhampton campus. Barbara was on site last month for a familiarisation visit and to provide an update on the book.

Following an exhaustive interview process with current and former employees Barbara said the book would provide an interpretation of the history of GPS through the eyes of the employees who had worked at the station.

"It's really about capturing the atmosphere of the power station through the employee's

stories, rather than just providing a factual history," Barbara said.

So far Barbara has submitted chapters on

- Planning and preparation to 1972
- Construction years 1972-81
- Operators/Control room
- Maintenance workers
- Apprentices
- GPS and community

With five more chapters to write Barbara hopes to have the completed manuscript finished by December. Once published, all current employees as well as many past employees will be provided with a copy of the book.