

## Engineering Award For Shoey

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher was honoured recently for his contribution to the engineering profession at the 2010 Engineers Australia Local Engineering Awards held at the Grand Hotel.

Shoey was presented with the Engineers Australia Gladstone Professional Engineer of the Year Award for 2010

Manager Technical Services, Ben Hayden said Shoey was selected from a number of peer nominees based on several criteria including professionalism, contribution to the engineering profession and community, leadership and engineering competency.

“There was a lot of interest in the awards this year with nominations from many local companies. The adjudication panel were impressed with Shoey’s commitment to engineering education, the development of young engineers and his technical knowledge around coal, milling, environmental issues and the management of GPS,” Ben said.



*Ben Hayden and Mike Brady congratulate Shoey on winning the Engineers Australia Gladstone Professional Engineer of the Year Award for 2010.*

## Old Spectacles Put To Good Use



*Ray Waghorn and Kev Ryan present some of the glasses collected to MV Pacific Ship Director Mike Mears and Captain Jeremy Schierer.*

About fifty pairs of old spectacles and sunglasses will put to good use in Papua New Guinea following a collection by Units Electrical Technician, Kev Ryan.

The glasses were donated to the medical mission ship MV Pacific Link which docked in Gladstone for a week last month.

The ship is owned and operated by Youth With A Mission (YWAM) an organisation who have helped over 200,000 people in 16 nations across the world. Ray Waghorn’s daughter Stephanie is presently part of the organisation and has spent 12 weeks on the ship.

The group are dedicated to providing health care services to PNG through dentistry, optometry, primary health care, medical supplies, ophthalmology and housing projects.

Kev said the glasses would be used to help improve vision for those living in poverty in New Guinea. He will continue collecting and arrange forwarding them on should you wish to donate some in the future.

Some interesting facts about MV Pacific Link and PNG:

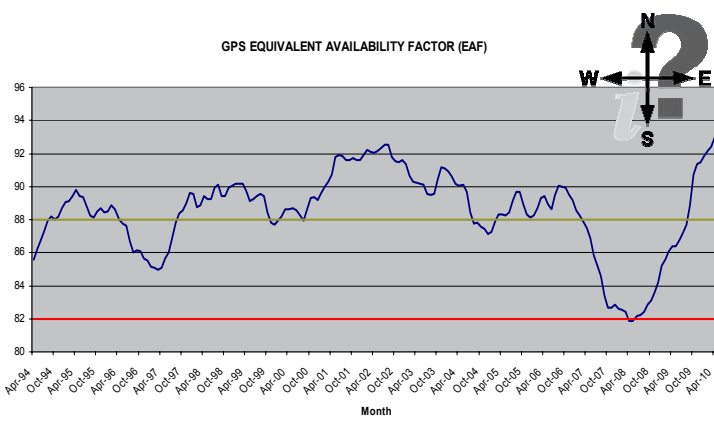
- Dentistry - approx 60 people per day treated aboard ship.
- Ophthalmology - approx 8 to 10 people per day treated aboard ship.
- In rural PNG 1 in 7 women die in child birth.
- In Australia 1 in 11,000 women die in child birth.

# From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

Well, we are now well and truly halfway through 2010 and for me it is very much a case of where has the year gone? It has been a very interesting six months or so and we have all been very busy but, it is appropriate to stop and just take stock of where we are.

Over the past month or so I have been enjoying getting out and trying to talk with every NRG person at GPS through the Employee Feedback Sessions. It is an important time in our history here at GPS and we should be very much looking to the future with all of its challenges and opportunities. But, if we do not know where we came from it is very hard to ensure we are setting the right direction for the future.



— GPS 2 Year Rolling Average

GPS Plant Availability.

So, let us take a moment to look at one piece of the story of where we have come from so far. By now most of you will be familiar with my much trotted out GPS Plant Availability graph (shown above). This graph shows how much of our plant's capacity was available to run at any particular point. Now, this is an important measure of how well we are operating and maintaining GPS. You can see that the above graph starts with the beginning of the GPS Joint Venture in 1994 and goes through until today. You will also see the difficulties that GPS found itself in during 2006 – 2007. But, more importantly you cannot help see the recovery that we have all

brought about through 2008 to now. It is an amazing recovery that the people of GPS have been critical in achieving.

Yes, it is true that the GPS Owners have responded to our requests for more money to be invested in the business and that has been very important and we thank them for their support and faith in us, the team at GPS. But, the money alone could not have achieved this amazing turn around. No, simply it has been your efforts, your ability and your support of GPS that has been central to this recovery. Well done!

Now the challenge for us all is to make this recovery sustainable. We cannot "take our eye off the ball". We must keep this plant running well if we are going to be in the right place to meet our future challenges and opportunities. In short, we must keep GPS running well if we are to build a future for ourselves here. Remember the Vision, our "Light on the Hill" that we set ourselves back in early 2008:

***"WE will be the Operator and Maintainer of choice for this Power Station for the duration of its life."***

So, here is to a great result so far. And here is to an exciting future full of opportunities. I believe we can make a difference here at GPS and we can have some fun doing it. Thanks for the journey so far. Now, let's see what we can really do.



## GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards

SHOEY  
Glenn Schumacher  
General Manager

# Service Register – July 2009

The NRG Service Register recognises employees who have completed 10 years service or more in the Queensland electricity industry and who have been employed at GPS

since the Sale of the Station (31/3/94). This register is for employees whose anniversary falls during the month of July.

42 years      Bob Shields  
33 years      John Norris  
31 years      Maurice Neill  
30 years      David Kent  
29 years      Peter Christopoulos,  
                 Paul Vanderlist,  
                 John McGhie,

28 years      Bob Watts,  
                 Allan Thomas,  
                 Doug Thomas,  
                 Kris Petersen,  
                 Graham Elliott  
23 years      Eric Surmon,  
                 Brad Maitland  
21 years      Les Smith  
19 years      Peter Ambrose  
17 years      Des Hall

# Unit 2 Overhaul July 2010

The Unit 2 overhaul currently underway has several large infrastructure renewal projects going on in parallel to the regular overhaul tasks. Some of these projects are part of an ongoing program, but during this overhaul there are also a large number of first time projects being undertaken. The following is a list of new infrastructure renewal projects not previously undertaken

- Mid life overhauls of the steam driven feed pump turbine
- Replacement of the economiser to air heater round flue duct cladding.
- Replacement of the wettracks instrumentation
- Replacement of air-heater cladding.
- Replacement of the dissimilar metal welds on the high temperature superheater outlet header
- The installation of a new access door at RL120, the 36 metre drop in the side of the boiler.
- Removal for corrosion remediation of CW1 and the associated spool piece.

The following are continuing infrastructure renewal projects

- Ash Hopper replacement
- Replacement of 20 Actuators
- F56 valve and actuator replacements

“The overhaul started on July 9 and will continue until September 11. The \$6.5M investment on new and continuing infrastructure projects, combined with a quality general overhaul, will hopefully ensure the continued reliability of the units that we have witnessed over the past two years” said Stephen Lewis Manager of Major Projects. Following is a summary of some of the infrastructure renewal projects issues / status.



Civil works is being undertaken in preparation for the new ash hopper.



Dave Greinke inspects the old entry point to the boiler furnace.

This overhaul sees the first overhaul of a steam driven feed pump turbine since the mid 1980's. This work is being undertaken by Siemens and is the first of six, as all feed pumps will be inspected over the next three years.

The economiser to air heater duct re-cladding is being undertaken by CBH and is made more difficult by the shape of the round duct. The round duct has introduced several access issues due to the need to allow access around the entire duct in order to replace the lagging and cladding.

The air heater cladding was not originally planned to occur in this overhaul, but a high wind event earlier this year damaged a large section of the lagging on the cross-over duct. The work is being undertaken by Gladstone Insulation and their scaffolding subcontractor Gladstone Scaffold Services. The top section was unable to be replaced as the support structures that it attaches to, had rusted away and needed to be replaced. The heat of the duct made replacement on line not possible, so the project was added to the overhaul program in June this year.

The remnant life assessment of the boilers undertaken by Mechanical Technical services staff and their contractor HRL, has identified an end of life issue with the welds of the dissimilar metals between the high temperature superheater outlet header stubs and the steam delivery tubes. The replacement of these welds is required to remove fatigued and damaged material in the weld area and will be done by a machine rather than a human, a new process for GPS.

Finally, following the successful replacement of Unit 4 ash hopper last year, the ash hopper replacement this overhaul is being undertaken again by Walz Construction and is proceeding smoothly, with civil works well advanced for the arrival of the new ash hopper in the second week of August.



Graeme Hawke checks out the expanded entry to the boiler furnace.



The photo shows the replacement of the cladding and insulation of the Unit 2 flue gas duct.

## Zip Up the Overhaul

There are a number of significant initiatives underway at GPS. Relating to Unit 2 Overhaul and the finalisation of the five year budget process.

These are the major “What’s Important Now” (WIN) projects for all of us at GPS. During the overhaul there will be plenty of opportunities for us to utilise our ZIP concepts – sureness of success and brutal facts, keeping our 7 Units focussed with all of us doing our 50%.

I personally recognise the importance of these projects and that I will need to adjust my work schedule to accommodate other people’s priorities. I also intend to be on the shop floor everyday that I am at work. I will be staying abreast of all the overhaul work and hope to personally see the improvements as they happen.

“What’s Important Now?” This is important now.

George Bennetts  
Manager HSESC

## Trainees Look Forward to New Careers

New Trainee Steam Plant Operators Josh Young, Dave Richmond and Tony Shewan are looking forward to developing new careers in the operations area.

Having travelled different paths in their training careers the trio have enjoyed sharing each others knowledge while developing the skills and abilities to fill the role of unit controller.

During the 18 month traineeship, they have completed training in power station underpinning knowledge, 36 plant based modules and simulator and on shift training.

Following the training their knowledge was tested with both theoretical and practical assessment. This allowed them to obtain certification for Advanced Boiler and Open Turbine Operation as required by the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Act.

Former QAL electrical engineer Josh Young said completing the traineeship within 18 months with no prior power station experience proved to be a real challenge.



Josh is a former QAL Electrical Engineer.



Tony has appreciated being able to draw upon the knowledge of fellow trainees Josh and Dave.

"I was fortunate that both Dave and Tony had worked at the station and they really helped me out finding valves and equipment," Tony said.

Tony said he was appreciating his new career after having worked as a mechanical fitter for 14 years.

"While it has been a steep learning curve it has been great to gain an understanding of how all the plant fits together. It was good having Josh and Dave doing the training with me and being able to call on their expertise when it came to learning the electrical theory," Tony said.

After two previous stints at GPS totalling 12 years former electrical technician Dave Richmond said the training allowed him to gain a greater appreciation of the mechanical side of the plant.

"I didn't realise how much was involved on the mechanical and process side. I am very happy with my crew placement and

the support from fellow crew members who were only too pleased to answer my questions," Dave said.

"This is the best move I ever made and the 12 hour shifts have given me a lot more time to spend with my family," Dave added.

Manager Production, Joel Otley said all three of the new trainees performed to an extremely high standard. With the traineeships now under their belts, they will join Shift Operations to continue to develop their knowledge and experience.

"I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Allan O'Rourke and Darryl Kropp for their efforts in delivering the training as well as those who have supported the three along the way," Joel said.

Josh has joined A Shift, Dave has moved onto D Shift while Tony has now joined the E Shift crew.

We congratulate Josh, Dave and Tony on their success.



Dave has been pleased with the support from fellow crew members.

## Improved Access to Vent Valves



Isolation Officers had difficulty accessing the old valves.

The relocation of the main turbine oil cooler treated water vent valves will reduce the potential for strain injuries for Production Safe Access Isolation Officers, according to Safety Officer Dave Greinke.

"The Isolation Officers have had difficulty in accessing the valves during permit isolations. To access and operate the vent valves personnel are normally required to bend down behind the main turbine oil cooler in a very restricted work space."

"These valves are being replaced with ball valves and being relocated to a more accessible position to enable production personnel to carry out their required isolations," Dave said.

The replacement of the valves is part of NRG's ongoing commitment to the NRG Hazard Reduction Program which has been ongoing since the early 1990's.

The valves on Units 4 and 6 have already been completed and those on Unit 2 will be completed during the current overhaul. Other units will be completed in future overhauls.

The new ball valves are now more accessible.



## Apprentices Complete First Three Months

NRG's nine first year apprentices have recently completed the first three months of their probationary training following a presentation held in the Administration Theatre last month.

In his presentation Shoey congratulated the group on reaching their first milestone in their careers.

"This is the first step in a journey of life long learning and studying for your trade is an important part of that learning. A trade is a valuable asset to have behind you but you need to make the best of that opportunity," Shoey said.

Shoey thanked the parents, mentors and the supervisors for helping the apprentices achieve the first step in their goal towards becoming a tradesperson.

Specialist Training and Development, John Marxsen encouraged the group to seek assistance from the superintendents and mentors if they had any personal concerns during their apprenticeship.

"Make the most out of your learning and please contact me if you need any assistance. We are there to help you. What you do now will lay the foundations for the future," John said.

With their basic training complete, the apprentices and trainee will be rotated through the various workgroups every four months.

Each apprentice has been assigned to a superintendent who is there to assist them with any issues that may arise.

Mentors in the workgroup also assist by ensuring that competency requirements are met and any work related enquiries are answered.



John Marxsen enjoyed chatting to Nathan Waddell and his parents at the apprentice function.



Russell Hunt enjoyed meeting Shannon Polkinghorne and his mum during the apprentice function.

## Dodds Construction Compound Relocated

After many years of operating out of an old site hut left by Minenco following the upgrade of the Coal Plant in 1995 / 96 Dodds Construction is moving into a modern specially built facility on the site of the old coal sampling building.

Dodds have provided civil and building maintenance services at GPS for more than 30 years. The company was founded by Alec Dodds (Stewart's father) and operated from the back of a truck in the early days. It then progressed through various portable buildings to its current location near the weigh-bin in the coal handling plant.

The relocation had been planned for later this year and early 2011, however during the selection of the site for the storage of the spare Generator and Rotor, the area occupied currently by Dodds Construction was identified as the most suitable due to the good ground compaction and easy access for the low loader.

Project Manager Rick Thomason has since set about sourcing a new portable lunch room and having drawings completed of the old sampling building to allow modifications which will nearly double the building's width.

Downer Engineering have installed a new switchboard and rewired the building over recent months in readiness for the move by the end of July. This will allow the new generator storage compound to be completed by the end of October when the spare generator is due to arrive.



Stewart and Rick check out plans for the new Dodds Construction facility.

# Farewell John Barnes

A possible trip to Ireland, Kakadu, Uluru and a visit to an aboriginal land reserve near Cooktown awaits John Barnes who retired from GPS last month after 29 years at the station.

John was a well liked member of the Ash Plant crew as well as being highly respected in the indigenous community.

John spent his early years as a cane cutter and fruit picker and later as a crane operator erecting a pumping station on the Ord River in Western Australia. He then worked on construction with Siemens for five years before joining the ash plant crew in October 1981 working for Ray Mantle.

During his 29 years with the crew John went onto work under a succession of supervisors including Terry Simpson, Peter Wendt and Malcolm Pollock.

“Ray Mantle was my favourite. He was always down to earth and you always knew where you stood with him.”

“I’ve really enjoyed the camaraderie and getting to know a lot of the people especially the old ash plant gang with people like Moose, Webby, Condor, Denny, Mark, Mick, Kiely, Kunzy, Keto, Lloyd, Clarkey, Mung, Hoffy and the French fitter (Shadow). It’s been like a big family to me. Sure you have disagreements but you get over them and move on,” John said.

Outside of work John is well remembered for his work building retaining walls at Rosella Park School and for training youth in the finer points of boxing.

“Around 1985 my mate Pat Fraser and I set up a boxing ring in the back yard to give kids something to do to keep them off the street. It turned out to be a real success with many of my boys winning zone and state titles. My son Shane made it to the Australian titles in the 32kg category. It was nothing to see 500 to 600 fans showing up at local tournaments.”

Later on John turned his hand to painting where he gained a major prize at the Martin Hanson Awards for his aboriginal art work. He then became a very successful dart player for over 20 years before turning his attention recently to target shooting with the Gladstone Pistol Club.

In his retirement John is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Kathy and their three children Shane, Michele and Aneasa and eleven grand children.

John is a leader and a trustee for the 10,000 hectares of land called Starkey Station owned by the Darraba group north of Cooktown. He is planning to visit the area spending some time crabbing and fishing while he is there.



*John is looking forward to visiting Starkey Station near Cooktown.*

## Charities Fund Elects New Committee

The Gladstone Community Charities Fund Annual General Meeting was held last month and a new committee was elected.

The new committee is Eric Eldridge (Chairman), John Lynch (Secretary) John Leinster (Treasurer) Cheryl Jackson, Gary Macnamara, Brian Clarke, Archie Lowe (Committee Members) and Ray Waghorn and Kerry Moffit (Trustees).

Incoming chairman Eric Eldridge said he was looking forward to taking over the reins following a successful six years from outgoing chairman, Archie Lowe.



*New Charities Fund President Eric Eldridge and Secretary John Lynch discuss plans for the Charities Fund.*

“My main focus will be to ensure that the fund membership continues to grow and that our employees are aware of the good work that the charities fund does in the community.”

“Currently there are 92 members in the fund out of a total workforce over 300 employees so I would like to see more employees joining the fund,” Eric said.

Past committee members also acknowledged the efforts of retiring secretary Doug Thomas for his sixteen years of service to the fund.

Some recent donations made by the charities fund include

- \$1000 for equipment at Rosella Park School. Rosella Park School is for children with intellectual and physical disabilities.
- \$500 for a luncheon for the elderly at Evenglow.
- \$5,000 for white goods for Mainstay. Mainstay provides people with disabilities accommodation and 24hour care.

Since its formation in 1982 the Charities Fund has donated over \$380,000 to charities in Gladstone. To assist the fund in its charity work NRG contributes \$6,500 to the fund each year. While the minimum donation is \$1 per week many members contribute from \$5 to \$20 because the money is used locally and all contributions are tax deductible. Members can also be involved and have a say in how the money is used.

# Getting Personal with Superintendent Units Electrical Gary Porteous

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

The people have been great and are only too happy to help. My impression of the plant is that it is operating effectively and I believe we could do better with some modernisation of equipment.

**What have you enjoyed about your new role?**

I've enjoyed the diversity of the workgroup and learning about an industry that is new to me. The atmosphere at NRG is more relaxing and less stressful than my previous role.

**Tell us about your previous roles and experience.**

I spent 26 years at QAL where I worked in a variety of roles from apprentice electrician, maintenance electrician, shift electrician, contractor planner co-ordinator and contractor supervisor. During the past five years I worked as an area day supervisor in operations. I have also spent three months as a maintenance electrician at the Port of Brisbane maintaining container cranes. While on the tools I was an ETU delegate and shop steward.

**What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?**

I was attracted by the opportunity to advance and the positive feedback of friends and previous work colleagues who now work at the station.

**Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.**

I like playing playing hockey and golf (poorly) and when time permits reading novels and biographies. I also enjoy having a few beers/bourbons and a punt on the horses at the track or the TAB.

**What do you like about living in Gladstone?**

I enjoy family, friends and the climate. It's a great place to raise children. Being a hockey player I would enjoy it a lot more if Gladstone had its own artificial hockey surface.

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

I was born in Gladstone and educated at Central State Primary School and Gladstone State High.



**Tell us a little bit about your family.**

I am married to Jayne (20 years) and we have with two teenage children. We live at Boyne Island with extended family in the Gladstone area.

**My worst habit is.....**

Being fussy with small details and falling asleep while trying to watching TV every night.

**At home I like to cook....**

As little as possible.

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

Not really a holiday but three weeks of business class employer funded travel to Ireland, London, Sardinia, Rome and Jamaica with stopovers in New York and Los Angeles. I also enjoy anytime away relaxing with my wife and children.

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

Doing nothing or writing about myself.

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

Leaving my previous place of employment after 26 years. My major concern was how the change would impact on my family.

## Eco Friendly Car Loan

Go Green and Save - 1.2% pa\* below the standard new car loan rate!

ECU Australia's Eco Friendly Car Loan offers a low interest rate, rewarding you for making a conscious effort to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions when buying a new or near new vehicle.

- ✓ 1.2% p.a.\* below standard new car loan rate
- ✓ Fast approvals
- ✓ Apply online
- ✓ No ongoing Fees
- ✓ Ability to make additional payments

- ✓ Redraw facility (minimum redraw \$500)
- ✓ 24/7 access via eTeller (Internet) & Telelink (Phone)

To find out more talk to Kerry or Karen on 4972 9034 or [www.ecu.com.au](http://www.ecu.com.au) ph: 1800 every (1800 383 791).

1.2% pa. below ECUA's standard Car Loan Rate. Fees, Charges, Terms, Conditions & Lending Criteria apply. Electricity Credit Union Ltd. ABN 50 087 650 986 AFSL: 240719. The Eco Friendly Car Loan is available for New & Used cars up to 3 years of age that have a Greenhouse Gas Emission rating of 6 & above. See the Federal Government "Green Vehicle Guide" [www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au](http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au)

# Where are they now? – Tom Newton

## What period did you work at the station?

I transferred from Swanbank to Gladstone Power Station as a relief APA in 1978 and stayed there until I retired as a Unit Controller in 2003.

## Tell us about your roles at the station at the time.

When I arrived at GPS the commissioning of Unit 4 was in progress. Unit 5 was only half built and Unit 6 was just a hole in the ground. I enjoyed the work and eventually was promoted to a Unit Controller.

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

I enjoyed the camaraderie with the people you worked with and went fishing with. There were people from all walks of life, some from sugar mills as well as pastry cooks, fitters and electricians and we were all doing the same job. There were some real characters amongst them and you could write a book on them. George Ryan used to tell all these stories about the Wallaville pub so I went there one day but it was a bit different to the way George had described it.

## You did a lot of work for the local community and also for the Gladstone Community Charities Fund. Can you give us some of the highlights from this?

I had the pleasure to be involved with the Gladstone Community Charities Fund and they helped so many people and community groups. These included the Port Curtis Day Respite Centre, Scouts and Guides and many others. I think the charities fund is one of the best charities I have ever seen, and the power station employees deserve a pat on the back for all the good work they have done over the years. While in Gladstone I was also involved with The Port Curtis Lions Club, the State Emergency Service, The Gladstone Radio Club and ten years with the Australian Air League as Wing Commander for Central Queensland. Being involved with different charities has been a big part of my life and they all seem to tie in with one another.

## You keep a very active lifestyle, what sort of things do you do to stay fit?

After Leaving Gladstone and moving to Rockhampton I went to work driving a truck and one day I fell and hurt my hip. In March last year I had a hip replacement and my doctor told me to do a bit of walking. Six weeks after the operation I was walking five kilometres each night. Now I go to the Gym three times a week and play four hours of tennis every Sunday. Since I have had the operation I have been abseiling, hiking and even did the 7.4 km walk through the Olgas. I then climbed Ayers Rock the same afternoon.

## Following your win on the lotto last year how have you enjoyed spending some of

## your winnings?

One afternoon on my way home I stopped at the news agency to get a paper and a Quick pick for Saturday night Lotto and they asked if I would like to buy a share in a syndicate for that night at \$4:25 so I said OK. That night I went to a Lions meeting and never thought anymore about it when I got home Janet asked what numbers I had. I said I did not know so I went and got the ticket and she told me she thought I had four numbers so I got on the computer and checked and I had seven. Then I told Jan I had seven numbers. But they did not give the dividends on the computer so I did not know how much we had won and I warned Jan that half of Australia may have put in the same numbers. It was not until the next morning our neighbours told us the Jackpot was \$5,000,000 and only one winner as it was a syndicate of ten shares. The next week I got 5 numbers out of 6 and only \$1684 because 2746 people had the same numbers as me but that is life. With the winnings we have bought a new Subaru Liberty and gave the children and grand children a good Christmas.

## Tell us about some of your recent travels through South Australia and Northern Territory

Janet and I went for a holiday to South Australia to try out the new car and ended up doing 8500 kms. Janet's son and family were in Millicent near Mount Gambier. He was working on the wind farm wiring the substation for the 134 wind turbines. We visited the blue lake at Mt Gambier then along the coast through the Coorong area to Adelaide and Victor Harbour and Cape Jervis and Port Adelaide. We really enjoyed the visit to Birdwood car museum. We then went to the Northern Territory and the Simpson Desert. Janet did not go on that trip because we were sleeping in tents for a month and travelling through the desert. The trip was from Townsville to Boulia and across the Plenty Highway to Alice Springs. While there we did day trips to the gorges, some I had visited with Ray Grambower in 1986 when we flew out to see Halley's Comet.

After leaving Alice Springs we drove along the old Ghan railway line to a town called Finke then on to Mount Dare and Dallhousie Ruins where there are hot springs 500m long and 100m wide and at 34 Deg C it was lovely. After leaving Dallhousie we made camp near Purni Bore where it was very cold. We travelled to where the South Australian border. There were 1260 sand dunes to cross some being 30m high. From Poeppel Corner we went along the Hay River bed to Baton Hill where we did the bush tucker tour, eating stuff I thought I would never eat. It was then on to Jervois for fuel, an 818 Km from Mt Dare that took six days.



Tom and Janet Newton.

## What do you miss about living in Gladstone?

The thing I miss most of all is the fishing and seeing my daughter Marilyn who lives with her mother. Gladstone is a very good family town and has a wonderful climate. It is clean and holds a lot of good memories for me. I really enjoy visiting Gladstone when I can and catching up with old friends.

## What other things have you done since leaving Gladstone?

After leaving Gladstone I went to Rockhampton where I worked as a truck driver driving out to the mines and pumping lubricant into the draglines. Part of my job was to travel from Bundaberg to Cairns once a month to supply oil to Kmart Tyre and Auto. After getting divorced I remarried on the Seventh of July 2007, that way I only have to remember one date 7/77. Janet and I went to America and Canada for our honeymoon and Janet had her first helicopter flight over Niagara Falls. When we got home we bought a caravan and travelled throughout Queensland visiting Carnarvon Gorge Tinaroo Dam and Lawn Hill Gorge. I also went to Karumba to see my daughter Michele for her 30th birthday.

## What do you enjoy about living in Townsville

Townsville is a big city and growing all the time with the Townsville 400. It has something for everybody. I do not work anymore but am involved with the Ross Valley Lions Club, the Townsville SES and the Townsville Radio Club.

## Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

Yes I still like to know what is happening in Gladstone. After spending 25 years I still like to keep up with Vic Camm, Bob Shields, Garth Liddell, Cliff Heidenreich, Darrell Kropp and Rod Augusten.

## Tell us a little bit about your family?

Now I don't just have three children of my own and two grand children but have three other children with Janet and seven more grand children who call me Poppy Tom. I feel so lucky.