

## Health, Safety and Wellness Family Fun Day Planned

Plans are well underway for a ZIP/Wellness Family Fun Day at the Gladstone PCYC on Sunday 7 November from 12 - 4pm.

Superintendent Safety Systems, Allison Hutton said the purpose of the day was to familiarise employee and contractor families to the NRG ZIP and Wellness Programs.

“As employees are aware we are currently in the embedding stage of ZIP (Zero Incident Process) and the Personal Big 5 is a major concept in ZIP. Family plays a significant part in nearly everyone’s Personal Big 5 so the ZIP Implementation Team thought it would be a good way to bring these things together. The day will also be a joint initiative with the wellness committee. Members of the GPS Rec Club will also be

assisting in the organisation and running of the day.”

“We want to bring ZIP and Wellness into the home as well as making it a fun day for the family,” Allison added.

Throughout the day there will be a variety of interactive activities for the children including colouring-in competitions, canvas painting, face painting and children’s rides.

“We are aiming to present some serious themes as well with Sentis running Zip training sessions from partners as well as safety presentations on electricity, ladder safety and road accidents to name a few,” Allison said.

Wellness Committee Spokesperson Jay Wilson said there would also be wellness displays on a range of health topics.



Jay Wilson, David Lahey and Allison Hutton get in some early planning for the Zip/Wellness Family Fun Day.

## Unit 2 Ash Hopper Now in Position

Saturday 21 August was another milestone in the history of GPS with the replacement Unit 2 ash hopper being moved into its final position.

Acting Project Manager Ross McKenzie said the ash hopper was the critical path project for the overhaul and meeting this milestone was important to ensure a successful overhaul.



The replacement of Unit 2 ash hopper is another milestone in the history of GPS.

“All the auxiliary pipe work and instrumentation can now be fitted ensuring that the hopper will be ready for recommissioning on 3 September,” Ross said.

The Unit 2 hopper was once again built by Walz Construction incorporating the new design changes agreed upon following a review conducted after Unit 4 installation last year. The new hopper has more folded joints and fewer welds than Unit 4 as the welding process introduces areas that are more susceptible to damage by the warm salt water in the ash hopper.

2011 will see the replacement of Units 3 and 6 ash hoppers during their overhauls with construction of the hoppers scheduled to commence before the end of 2010.

Following the commissioning of Unit 2 a review of the installation process will be undertaken to reduce the length of the installation process for both Unit 3 and 6.

Overhauls include chemical cleans of the boiler so availability to the ash hoppers will be required earlier than this year’s program. Project Manager Graeme Hawke is investigating the use of modular construction techniques for the ash hopper hydraulic controls as an effective way to reduce the installation time.

## From Shoey's Desk

Dear Folks

I would very much like to draw your attention to the great work of the Gladstone Power Station Gladstone Community Charities Fund. The fund was established on 5 August 1982 by power station employees who saw a need to put something back into the local community. The Fund's aim is:

"To demonstrate that the employees are a caring part of the community by assisting the neediest members of the Gladstone community."

In the years since 1982, the fund committee members have worked long and hard to achieve this aim and make both the Gladstone community and our power station better places by their actions.

Over the years, the Gladstone Community Charities Fund has assisted 45 worthwhile charities and there are many new ones coming along each year. Some of these charities include:

- Blue Nursing Service
- Meals on Wheels
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Life Line
- Gladstone Youth Crisis Centre
- Roseberry Community Services
- Calliope and District Riding for the Disabled
- Schools Chaplaincy Committee
- Girl Guides
- State Emergency Service

Currently NRG contributes \$6,500 as an annual subsidy to the fund. During the 2009/2010 financial year the Charities Fund contributed \$19664 to charities in the Gladstone region. As of March 2010 the Gladstone Community Charities Fund has contributed in excess of \$370,000 in a little over 25 years. A great effort in anybody's language.

Request for donations to the Fund are currently assessed on two criteria:

- The organisation receiving the donation has the ability to meet the requirements of a public charity;
- The donation will benefit people living in the Gladstone Regional Council area.

Now, all of this great work can only happen through the hard work of the fund committee but, also it requires us the people of Gladstone Power Station to get behind this great tradition by joining the Fund and contributing. Employees who would like to contribute to the fund or increase their contribution can contact Natalie Hurst in the Human Resources section. All that is required is a minimum



donation of \$1 a week although some employees contribute up to \$20 per week. All contributions are tax deductible.

A photograph of Gladstone Power Station Gladstone Community Charities Fund Members John Leinster and "Archie" Low (former President) handing over cheques to some of the Gladstone Charities supported by the Fund in 2009.

The current Fund Committee is: President - Eric Eldridge, Secretary - John Lynch, Treasurer - John Leinster, Trustee - Ray Waghorn and committee members - Gary Macnamara, Cheryl Jackson, Brian Clarke, Ray Waghorn, Ross Ahern and Kerry Moffit. I am sure that any member of the committee would be only too pleased to talk to you about the work of the fund and provide information.

So come on, if you are not a member join up and be part of something a little special.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead - US anthropologist & popularizer of anthropology (1901 - 1978)

**GPS OUR FUTURE**

Regards  
SHOEY

Glenn Schumacher, General Manager

### Sarah Ties the Knot

Specific Task Safety Officer Sarah Morton (nee Maynard) recently tied the knot with BSL mechanical equipment technician John Morton on the 7 August at Hervey Bay. Best wishes to the happy couple.



### Service Register – August / September 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 months of August and September.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 41 years - Kerry Moffit                                       | 29 years - Paul Adamson                           |
| 36 years - Russell Beard                                      | 28 years - Lynda Casey, Archie Lowe, Brian Clarke |
| 34 years - Peter Rosak, Russell Watson                        | 27 years - Stephen Thefs, Leonard Quinn           |
| 33 years - David Hoffmann, Richard Thomason, Lindsay Prizeman | 23 years - Mitchell Brown                         |
| 32 years - Peter Adamson, Darryl Bond, George Bennetts        | 21 years - Troy Smith                             |
| 31 years - Steven Mc Intyre, Matthew Wegrzyn                  | 20 years - John Allen, Steven Lund                |
| 30 years - Kevin Mc Neill                                     | 17 years - Scott O'Connor                         |
|   | 16 years - Tim Waugh                              |
|   | 11 years - Ian Rasby, Rebecca Sparrow             |

## Botanic to Bridge a Huge Success



The inaugural Gladstone Port Corporation's Botanic to Bridge Walk/Run was a huge success with 4,500 people participating in one of Gladstone's biggest ever community events.

Participants were able to complete an 8km event commencing at the Tondoon Botanical gardens and a 3km event from the Reg Tanna Memorial Park with both courses finishing at the Gladstone Marina.

NRG event coordinator Doug Thomas said over 70 NRG employees including family members had participated in the event.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm from employees for the event and it's been great to see families wanting to get involved and do something together. It's a great fun and healthy outdoor activity," Doug said.

Fellow NRG employee Greg McDiarmid said it was a great opportunity for families, workmates and sporting clubs to raise a sweat while supporting the local schools at the same time.

Following the race many employees took the opportunity to visit the Healthy Living Expo which featured a range of entertainment and activities for the whole family.



## Employees Celebrate Safety Milestone



NRG employees once again got to celebrate another successful safety milestone by achieving 90 days free of recordable injury on site.

To acknowledge their efforts employees got to enjoy a healthy choice luncheon of cold meats, prawns, salads and fresh fruit.

General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher thanked all employees for their dedication and commitment to achieving the milestone.

"This is an achievement that we need to acknowledge. Firstly and most importantly it means that we have gone for a period of 90 days without anybody being hurt and that in itself is great. The challenge for all of us is to make this a permanent state of affairs. It is important that we continue to work together to make GPS a safe place to work," Shoey said.

## New Fundraising Record for Relay for Life team

This year's NRG's Relay for Life team raised its highest ever total with \$ 9179 being donated towards cancer research

NRG team captain Kev Ryan was ecstatic with the fundraising effort and the sponsorship provided by NRG.

The team have been kept busy raising funds through lunch time sausage sizzles, chocolate drives and donations.

"This was the second highest amount raised and I am thankful for the support provided by the employees and NRG who contributed \$2360 in registration and company sponsorship as well as the food for the barbecues." Kev said.

The sixth annual Cancer Council Queensland's Relay for Life was once again held at Chanel College and was great success with 62 teams raising around \$165,000 for cancer research.

NRG were well represented this year by Kev, Mary and Dom Ryan, Kris and Brian Petersen, Jay and Alex Wilson, Cherie Cavanagh and her mother Julie McGilvray, Mick Hills, Steve Heit and Nev, Michelle and Mitch Beckman, Brian, Christine and Rebecca Clarke and Leanne Spencer (Clarke). Many other employees, former

employees and families assisted in organising the event, setting up and being members of other teams. Some also participated in the very moving "Survivors Walk" at the beginning.

Around 550 people took part in the relay which saw team members taking turns to walk their baton around the Chanel College oval for 18 hours during the overnight event.

Earlier on in the night a candlelight ceremony was held to honour lost ones or to symbolise loved ones who have survived or are currently battling the disease.

Special thanks must go to all those who assisted with the sausage sizzles, tent set up, collecting and of course our employees who made very generous donations and bought the sausages. For next year Kev hopes employees will organise new fundraising events.

"Even if you can't be part of the walking team, your input is welcomed. We need new blood and fresh ideas. Energy from the younger (and not so young) generation as the job adverts says."

NRG is only one of a handful of teams who have entered a team in each year since the relay began.



The Gladstone Relay for Life was a great success.



The NRG team raised a record total for cancer research this year.

## NRG Supports Careers Expo

NRG employees were keen to show their support for local students at this year's Gladstone Careers and Tertiary Expo held at the PCYC last month.

Employee Relations Officer, Julie Evans said the Expo was a great way to engage students and to talk about career opportunities available at Gladstone Power Station.

"It was good to be able to talk to the students first hand so they could get a feel for what types of careers are available at the station. While our main focus was on apprenticeships and traineeships we wanted to also communicate what engineering and non-trade job opportunities were available. We were very pleased with the feedback from the both the students and the parents who attended," Julie said.

During the Expo the students had the opportunity to take part in the Try-A-Trade competition. Activities included measurement of accuracy using callipers and constructing a Series Circuit and a Parallel Circuit.

Students who took part in the activities had the opportunity to win Movie Vouchers and Rush Vouchers which were drawn throughout the day.

As well as NRG more than 40 other exhibitors from major industry, tertiary institutions and apprenticeship centres set up displays at the PCYC.

Many thanks to Kyra Bell, Matt Pickels, Jen Galland and John Marxsen for setting up and manning the NRG display.



The expo was a great way to engage students and talk about career opportunities.

## Trio Chalk up 350 Blood Donations

NRG employees Roy Jones, Steve Lewis and Garry Coleborn were recognised for their contribution as blood donors in a presentation held at the Gladstone Regional Council last month.

Councillor Gail Sellers presented each of the recipients with their medallions which were created to acknowledge the vital contribution of blood donors to the life of the community.

Roy was presented with a silver medallion for achieving 150 donations while Steve and Garry were presented with a bronze medallion for having reached 100 donations.

Roy recalled making his first donation while in the New Zealand army in 1967.

"The inter island ferry had just sunk and we were called upon to either search for

survivors or make a donation to the local blood bank. Knowing there would be a big demand for blood I decided to give it a go," Roy said.

After moving to Gladstone in 1978 Roy has continued to chalk up the donations which now number 153. As well as this both Roy and wife Val have been active volunteers at the Gladstone Red Cross Blood Bank since 1983.

Steve remembers giving his first donation as a 17 year old student at CQU Rockhampton.

"You got a free lunch if you donated while studying at uni which was a better lunch than we got at the residential college where we lived," Steve commented.

"I am very proud that I have been able to achieve it at a relatively young age. As I

have never belonged to a service club I felt I could give good service to the community by being a blood donor," he said.

Garry has been donating blood for 35 years and decided to take it up after visiting a friend in hospital.

"One of the old slogans then was 'blood owners should be blood donors.' Blood donations were always done on a Tuesday night on the veranda of the old Gladstone Hospital. The on call doctor would take the blood or one of the local GP'S."

"One of the big benefits here is that NRG has allowed employees to take time off work to donate blood. It's great that NRG have been such active supporters of the blood bank over many years," Gary said.



Garry and Steve were happy to show off their medals for 100 blood donations.



Roy was proud to be presented with a silver medallion in recognition of his 150 blood donations.

## Modifications to Ute Improves Job Efficiency

Recent modifications to the Ash Plant Toyota 4WD ute have helped to improve job efficiency and save time for maintenance employees carrying out repairs on site according to mechanical fitter Mick Chadwick.

"We had done a lot of work in upgrading our workshop and Dave Hoffman came up with the idea to modify the ute particularly after we had problems doing maintenance on the ash lines and because of new laws associated with covering loads on utes," Mick said.

"Previously when we would go out to jobs the gear would be rolling around in the back of the truck so we wanted to modify the ute to make it more organised. We also wanted to have easy access to the oxyacetylene gear and have all the right tools in the truck so we didn't have to come back to the workshop."

Modifications to the truck involved fitting air bags, upgrading the springs, fitting spotlights and construction of aluminium tool boxes which have been bolted to the floor of the tray.

Most of the work was completed by Dave Hoffman along with assistance from our apprentices Matthew Pickles, Brad Zillmann, John Hall our boilermaker and Ron Anderson who sourced the new tools for the toolboxes.

"We have a designated area in the drawers so each tool has its own place and it's easy to do an audit on it afterwards," Mick said.

"Having the re-modified ute has saved us a lot of time not only when we are doing jobs on the ash lines but for other maintenance jobs as well," he said.



Matthew Pickles and Trent Hall check out the recent modifications made to the Ash Plant 4WD Ute.

## Farewell Peter and Graham



*Peter's knowledge of the turbine and generator plant will be sorely missed.*

After a fine career in the electricity industry Turbine, Condenser and Feed Heating, Peter Filtress has decided to hang up the boots and retire.

Peter came to Australia while on his way to New Zealand in the early 1970's and he liked the place so much he decided to stay.

After completing a mechanical trade in London, Peter began his career in the Queensland Electricity Industry in 1976 working as a fitter at Kareeya Hydro station. Two years later he joined GPS as one of the original half a dozen fitters on site.

"At the time we only had one unit running which was Unit 2 and Harold Ackworth was our boss. There were no sections as such and we worked on all areas of the plant. By the time all units were on line in 1982 we had around 72 fitters on site," Peter said.

In 1982 Peter was promoted to a foreman's position and during the next three years

he worked in the CW, Feed Heating and Condensing and Turbine areas.

"By the mid 1980's we started to do a lot more work on the turbines and generators and with ongoing refurbishment work taking place, the turbine overhaul crew was formed with people like Graham Elliott, Doug Thomas, Brad Jensen, Roy Watts and Kim Santacaterina."

"I really enjoyed this period and we had a great bunch of blokes to work with. Everyone respected each other. You worked hard but you also played hard at the same time. It was a real family affair and many of the people you worked with actually lived in the same neighbourhood at Clinton so you got to know them very well."

Over the years Peter has continued to build on his knowledge of the plant and his expertise on the turbine and generator plant will be sorely missed during his retirement.

Peter is planning to move to the Gold Coast in the near future to be closer to his son Zach who runs a Pilates business. Continuing his interests in nature photography and bush walking are also high on the agenda with Peter planning to take on the Milford Sound Track next year.

Also retiring this month is Units Mechanical fitter, Graham Elliott who has worked at the station for over 28 years.

Starting in the Feedheating and Condensing crew under Glen Rowe, Graham then moved into the CW area before moving into the turbine overhaul crew with Peter Filtress in the mid 1980's.

When not on the shutdown crew Graham enjoyed working with a variety of other

supervisors including Glen Anderson, Allan Timm and Peter Wendt.

"I've particularly enjoyed working with the shutdown crews both on the tools and in an acting supervisory role. Working with the Siemens crews as an inspector has also been interesting and there is never a dull moment during the shutdowns."

"I am pleased with the way we have been able to improve the performance of the plant particularly the turbines, valves and seal oil plants. We have been able to reduce the oil leaks down to a minimum," Graham said.

In his retirement Graham is looking forward to spending more time farming and growing his own vegetables on his five acre property at Wurdong Heights.



*Graham has enjoyed part of the turbine overhaul crew.*

## Rubber Removal Helps Save Water

Significant savings in water consumption have recently been achieved by improved polisher function and performance with the removal of rubber lining from all pipes in the Z polisher system.

Mechanical fitters Mick Chadwick and Grant Sutherland managed the project with assistance from Bob Dennien who coordinated the isolation and restoration of the polisher plant.

The project was completed during an intense three and a half month period with a high degree of cooperation required between Auxiliary Plant Maintenance, Chemical Processes and Operations. Each

week the project required the isolation of plant, removal of pipe-work, stripping of the rubber lining and restoration of the plant.

Superintendent Chemical Processes, Kelvin Newman said polisher operation and regeneration had been adversely affected by the breakdown of the rubber lining in the pipe-work.

"Fine rubber particles are entrained in the resin affecting separation and regeneration while large pieces of rubber create blockages that prevent the transfer of resins. Once the rubber was removed new polisher resin could then be installed without contamination," Kelvin said.

The purpose of the polishers is to protect the boiler from being contaminated with seawater during condenser leaks.



*Mick, Bob and Grant inspect the work recently carried out on the Z Polisher Systems.*

## Howard Reflects on his Career at GPS

I started my working career with the ANZ Bank in Charters Towers in 1966 and eventually transferred to Gladstone in 1977. I was then transferred to Tannum Sands in the early 1980's where I opened the ANZ Branch.

Once the opening was completed I transferred back to Gladstone anticipating another transfer. During this time I got to know a couple of the blokes from the Station namely Russell Unwin, Kelvin Bullock and Graham Price who used to come in and do their banking.

After getting to know them one day Russell asked if I would like a job with QEC. No worries I said. There were no real interviews except Graham came into the Bank and asked a few questions including whether I would be able to handle the mundane work at the station. Writing 8/03 and IS in time books did become a bit boring delivering pays to the operators was always an experience

I started as relief clerk and my first job was with Cheryl Jackson in the records area. This progressed to the pay office and later to administration for a couple of years. A position then became available which included looking after the credit union and travel which was pretty good. I then looked after the QEC housing and apprentice flats with Brian Robson in conjunction with Russell Skinner. This was an experience as I got to meet a lot of QEC people in these roles.

In the late 80s the then manager Sid Durrington asked me if I would like to go to the Warehouse which I did. This was an entirely different environment to what I was used to. As the Warehouse Supervisor I was there to improve communications and service especially between the supply section and the rest of the power station. At the time there were 36 people in the section including

six storekeepers. At this time I got to know a lot of the mechanical supervisors like Ray Mantle and others.

I returned to Administration in 1990 to set up the Accounts Payable section which was previously conducted from Rockhampton.

Returning to Stores as the Supply Officer Warehouse I was involved in many projects including vehicle leasing, pulveriser crates and the pulveriser kits project.

I would like to personally thank everyone for their support and friendship over the years and hope that I may be able to catch up with some of you in retirement.



Howard accepts a farewell gift from Garry Coleborn.

## A New Case for 4B Pulveriser

The Pulveriser Overhauls workgroup is currently undertaking the project of an end of life change out for the 4B Pulveriser case.

Due to the issue of corrosion and erosion occurring within all the Pulveriser cases, in 2008 funding was approved to have one case manufactured during 2009.



Ron Williams lowers the pulveriser case into position.

The process included having the original manufacture's drawings re-drawn and converted from imperial to metric. The case was then fabricated and supplied by Walz Construction.

Using the available history on case conditions, 4B was selected to be changed out. During the preparation process wear parts were fitted to check for clearances, with partial assembly in the workshop making the inspecting and checking process easier for the workgroup. Issues identified were documented and then discussed at drawing review meetings. The relevant drawings have now been updated to the correct

measurements and tolerances. The picture at left shows the case in the process of being installed.

Pulveriser Overhaul Superintendent Derek Smith said the work being completed by all people involved in this project has been excellent.

"Project Co-ordinator Gavin Donohoe has been working closely with the guys, who are enjoying the challenges of the work which is different to the normal 'run of the mill work.' Frank Driessen's interest and support from a Technical aspect should also be commended and we are all working towards a positive outcome," Derek said.

Tenders have been issued for the fabrication and supply of two more cases by December and they will be subsequently changed out during scheduled overhauls in 2011. Once the station budgets for 2011 have been approved additional cases will commence fabrication.

# Our Decisions, Gorillas and our Personal Big 5

Hi everyone. I have just returned from a wonderful but whirlwind 4WD trip through central Australia with my family and a few friends. We did 5,700 km in a little over two weeks through some fairly rugged terrain. We knew we had a lot of ground to cover in a relatively short time and had put plans in place to manage this. However, this is not the point of this article.

From our ZIP training, we went through a process to identify our Personal Big 5. For most of us, our family (including their health and wellbeing and quality time spent with our family) features somewhere in our PB5. Whilst covering the distances on the types of roads we did on our central Australia trip, we saw a few significantly loaded vehicles complete with families on board taking what we thought were unnecessary risks. These included excessive speed and dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.

What would this really achieve? Was this to get to their final destination earlier so they so they could spend a few extra minutes

of “quality time” with their families? Was it really advantageous to “scare the living daylights” out of your spouse and kids and raise their stress levels while travelling and then attempt to unwind with those very same people assuming the destination was reached?

What was really DIPI for the drivers here? Supposedly, the quality time at the end of the journey but at what potential cost? What was not realised here was that the drivers’ actions to get to their destination more quickly could have jeopardised the very thing they value.....their family.

Paradoxically, this was their gorilla. Their 7 Units weren’t really focussed on the hazards and risks of excessive speed, fatigue from the long drive, dangerous overtaking manoeuvres or

the changing road conditions and setting sun.

In effect, in spite of good intentions, they weren’t really looking out for their Personal Big 5 at all! This is the ultimate gorilla, don’t you think?

Martin Thomas



*Driving a 4WD requires drivers to be focused on all their 7 Units.*

## Privacy Assured at Alcoholiser Testing Booths

The alcoholiser self testing booths at the entrances to the Power Station have recently been upgraded to ensure the privacy of employees and contractors who use them.

Dodds Construction under the supervision of GPS Services Superintendent John Norris have frosted the side panels in the top section of the cubicles and added an opaque plastic screen on the entrance.

NRG’s Fitness for Duty Policy requires that all employees and contractors have a blood alcohol reading of less than 0.02% when working on site.



*Gary Macnamara checks out the changes made to Alcoholiser Testing Booth.*

## Machine Welding Used in the Penthouse during Unit 2 Shutdown

The boilers at GPS are made up of hundreds of tubes of various types of metals. Boilers are built with tubes of different materials in order to keep costs to a minimum. The materials are matched to the temperature of the water or steam they carry.

NRG Project Engineer Ross McKenzie said during recent boiler inspections issues were identified at the joints between the different types of tubes in the high temperature regions of the boiler.

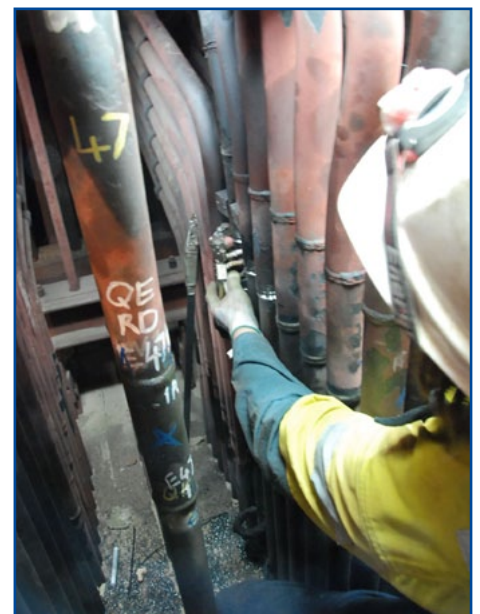
“The material around the old weld area has become weaker than the rest of the tube requiring that material be removed and the weld redone. The joining together of these two different types of tube is known as a dissimilar metal weld,” Ross said.

As part of the Unit 2 overhaul, Clyde-Babcock Hitachi was engaged to repair 343 welds by removing the damaged material and re-welding the area.

“Due to the large number of welds and the restricted access to perform the repairs by conventional welding methods, two orbital welding machines rather than conventional

welding techniques using people were used,” Ross added.

It is expected the rewelding of tubes on the five other units will be completed during upcoming unit overhauls.



*A CBH employee inspects the dissimilar welds in the Penthouse area.*