

Shoey Honoured for Engineering Excellence

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn “Shoey” Schumacher was honoured recently for his considerable contribution to the engineering profession by winning the 2010 Queensland Professional Engineer of the Year Award.

The award was presented to Shoey by Engineers Australia and announced at a ceremony held in Brisbane in October. Manager Technical Services, Ben Hayden, who also attended the awards ceremony, accepted the award on Shoey’s behalf as Shoey was holidaying in Ireland at the time.

Shoey said he was amazed and blown away after learning of his success.

“To be recognised by your colleagues and peers is the greatest compliment you can be given. My name might be on the award but this is a result of a lot of people’s efforts at GPS, Tarong, Hazelwood and a lot of other places that have helped me along the way.”

“I don’t see this as an award for me but an award for the team here at GPS. We are really sending the message out there that NRG is a good company and we have people here who know how to run and operate a power station.”

“At the end of the day I am an engineer. It’s not just a job or a career for me. It really says what I am,” Shoey said.

Ben said Shoey was selected for the award by his peers based on several criteria including professionalism, contribution to the profession and community, leadership and engineering competency.

One of the areas the adjudication panel were impressed with was Shoey’s commitment to engineering education and the development of young engineers. While at Tarong Power Station, Shoey was instrumental in setting up the new post graduate program “Masters of Power Generation,” which was a collaborative arrangement between Tarong, Stanwell, CS Energy and CQU, QUT and UQ.

“We are really trying to encourage young engineers in this industry to go the extra mile and it’s starting to pay dividends with a number

of our own engineers completing the course and delivering lectures as part of the program,” Shoey said.

Many employees will also be well aware of Shoey’s expert knowledge of coal and milling which has earned him an international reputation with companies including Xstrata Coal and NRG Energy Inc.

Shoey pointed out that around the world around 2.5% -3.5% of the entire world’s electricity is used to drive mills, crushers and grinders.

“One of the things I have discovered over the years is that we have lost a lot of knowledge in the milling process area and yet it is one of the biggest areas of maintenance expenditure as well as being a high energy user.”

In a world first during his time at Tarong Power Station Shoey led a team of engineers in redesigning a mill which would allow it to grind a very difficult coal while still achieving full output.

“There are enormous areas of opportunity if we can improve the milling process so it is important that we take steps now to improve the depth of understanding of mills for a whole new generation of engineers,” Shoey said.



Shoey reflects on winning the 2010 Queensland Professional Engineer of the Year Award.



Dave Greinke checks out the safe access platform used to access the service floor hoists.

Safe Access to Hoists Improved

Safe access platforms have been installed to access the Service Floor hoists (Number 2 and 3 Loading Bays) during scheduled maintenance.

Superintendent Units Mechanical, Guy Ayscough said the new access platform would provide safer access as well as a lay down area for tools and equipment while servicing and maintaining the hoists.

“Previously we had to gain access by using a scaffold platform which created an obstruction while moving equipment along the Service Floor. The permanent scaffold equipment in place was also required to be checked prior to use and also reduced the availability of scaffold equipment for other jobs,” Guy Ayscough said.

From Shoey's Desk Thank You

Dear Folks

Well we are coming to the end of another year. This is a time in the year when we tend to look back at the year that has gone. Whilst for me it has been a great year with a whole array of highlights it is really the last three years which have been an amazing time for GPS and also for me personally. We have together turned the GPS business around in an amazing way. You have all heard me talk about this earlier this year in the Employee Feedback Sessions. The work we have done in the past few years along with the resolution of the GPS Interconnected Power Purchase Agreement (IPPA) and this year's renegotiation of the GPS Operating and Maintenance Agreement (OMA) have set a very strong base for the future of GPS.

Yes, we face some big challenges in the future with issues such as the cost and availability of coal, the cost of Carbon (Greenhouse gases), emissions generally, pressure on skills and the practical matter of taking the physical GPS plant forward whilst at the same time keeping the performance at the level we have raised it to. But for me, I do not see a set of challenges but rather a set of opportunities for the future of GPS and the people who are the heart and soul of this place. If we can rise to meet the opportunities coming our way, we will not only have an effect at GPS but potentially an effect way beyond GPS. As we have proven in the past three years, we can substantially affect our own future. We do not just have to accept what may come but rather have a say in making our own future.

For me on a personal level, I feel that the initial job I came to GPS to do is mainly done. We have turned this business around; we have shown people we really have got something to offer and that the people who make up GPS really know what they are doing. I look back on what we have achieved together in the past three years with a great sense of pride and satisfaction. At the same time, I feel very indebted to you the people of GPS for your efforts and support over the past three years. I also need to acknowledge the great support of the GPS Owners in what from time to time was a very tense period.

There are people and groups here in the Gladstone Community who have been a great support over the past three years and our relationships with them are key to our future. There are also people way beyond Gladstone who are great supporters of GPS and what we have been doing here. I thank them all both on behalf of GPS but also on my own behalf because without their support I know we would not be where we are today.

So, back to the future. Knowing where we have come from gives us a sense of direction for where we need to go. We are already seeing "concrete" steps towards our future with our efforts to renew that GPS plant. You only have to look at the new Ash Hoppers and the recently arrived new Generator. Now, we need more than just renewing the plant. We need to put our minds to how we can make the plant better and improve the whole GPS operation. The opportunities are there for us to grasp so now is the time to grasp them.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of NRG, the NRGGOS Senior Management Team and myself to wish you and your families a safe and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. To those who have to work over the Christmas – New Year period, this can be a bit of a hard time and we should not forget your efforts, thank you.

We need everybody back here fit and well so that we can get on with grasping the opportunities in front of us. Oh, and by the way I do hope you have some fun over the Christmas period, which is important as well. For me, this year my family are coming up from Sydney for the first time. My nephew who is four years old and my niece who is just under three are very excited about the prospect of coming up and of course being spoiled rotten. I am hoping for a great Christmas.

I would however ask one thing of each and every one of you, please BE SAFE. In particular this year please be safe on the road if you are travelling – STOP, REVIVE, SURVIVE.

I would like to thank you all for your efforts not only in the past year but, over the past three years. See you ALL in 2011.

GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards

SHOEY
Glenn Schumacher
General Manager



Don Lodding Awarded Rec Club Life Membership

Don Lodding became the fifth life member of the Gladstone Power Station Recreation Club following the election of a new committee.

Rec Club Vice President Jason Taylor presented Don with his life membership plaque.

Don served on the Rec Club committee for over 10 years, five of which as President.

Long time committee member and former President himself Archie Lowe said Don was a worthy recipient of life membership.

"When Don came on board in the late 1980's the Rec Club was really struggling. Don put in a lot of time and effort coming up with new ideas and ensuring there was regular Rec Club activities every month," Archie said.

Asked about highlights over the years during his time on the committee, Don was proud to be involved in getting the harbour cruises and family fun days off the ground.

"The harbour cruises were great fun and they were well supported by the members who were always keen to try new activities," Don said.

With retirement looming in the near future Don is looking forward to being able to keep in touch with the Rec Club while indulging in his interests in travel and fishing.

The other life members of the Rec Club are Gwen Coyle, Don Kerr, Grant Partridge, Archie Lowe and Doug Thomas.



Jason presents Don with his Rec Club Life Membership Award.

Fun and Laughter at 25 Year Dinner

“The best dinner yet” was how some members described this year’s 25 year dinner held at the Grand Hotel on Saturday 6 November.

Highlight of the night for many was the hilarious show delivered by Brisbane based entertainer Matt Hollywood who kept the crowd enthralled with his comedy routines, card tricks and interaction with audience members.

Regular 25 year dinner attendees Rebecca and Graeme Sparrow were pleased with the added entertainment and felt the night was a great success.

“He managed to keep everything flowing really well with lots of belly laughs and it really added value to the night,” Rebecca said.

The stars of the night were of course our “volunteers” Peter Caughey, Peter Chadwick, Cameron Hoare and Terrie Green who were happy to be part of the act.

This year 127 people attended the event and the club welcomed new members for 2010 Kelvin Bebendorf, Bill Whitmore, Graham Lester, Kris Neaton, Brian Courtney and Eddie Somerfield.

Throughout the night members enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with current and former workmates.

Special thanks to the organising committee of Sandy Hunt, Archie Lowe, Tony Frazer, Dave Greinke, Mick Richters, George Bennetts and Gary Macnamara.



Apprentice Achievement Awards

NRG's top apprentices were recently honoured for their work achievements over the past 12 months.

In his presentation to the group General Manager Glenn "Shoey" Schumacher acknowledged the award winners and praised the support staff and mentors who had helped the group achieve a consistently high standard throughout their four years of training.

"Becoming a tradesperson is certainly something to celebrate and this should not be undervalued. We have a long history of producing good tradespeople and there is a high level of respect for NRG apprentices in the community. You are the ambassadors for this business."

"The skills, knowledge and experience you have learned here will hold you in good stead for the future. However this is not the end of your training but only the beginning. As a good tradesman you also have an obligation to pass on these skills to the next generation," Shoey said.

Shoey praised the efforts of all the fourth year apprentices who had gone through their training without a serious injury.

Specialist Maintenance Training John Marxsen said the Achievement Awards were designed to formally recognise an apprentice's achievement in striving for excellence and maintaining that excellence over four years.

This year the Mechanical Apprentice High Achievement Award was presented to fourth year apprentice Trent Hall while the Electrical

High Achievement Award was presented to Cameron Smith. They received an \$800 bursary to spend on tools or books and a watch for their efforts.

The Electrical Apprentice of the Year Award winners were Luke Critchley (first year), Lachlan Perkins (second year), Ryan Pickles (third year) and Jacobe Jefferies (fourth year).

Mechanical Apprentice of the Year Award winners were Kris Fleming (first year), Ethan Horrocks (second year), Stuart Norris (third year) and Kris Ivermee (fourth year). Each apprentice received a \$100 voucher for the purchase of tools or books.

The top apprentices were selected on the basis of performance assessments by crew members and superintendents, attendance records, sick leave and participation in workgroup activities.

John also praised the efforts of the apprentices for maintaining an excellent health and safety record.

"This year we have apprentices that not only achieved 12 months without an uncertified sick leave day but over the four years of their apprenticeship four of our apprentices have achieved three days or less. It is also encouraging that five apprentices have achieved four years without a Lost Time Injury.

Colin and Kay Prendergast were on hand to present the Bruce Prendergast Merit Award to fourth year apprentice Cameron Smith. This award is sponsored by the GPS Rec Club and voted on by all apprentices at GPS.



(Rear L-R) Kris Ivermee, Trent Hall, Ryan Pickles, Lachlan Perkins and Ethan Horrocks. (Front L-R) Cameron Smith, Luke Critchley, Stuart Norris, Jacobe Jefferies and Kris Fleming.



Kay and Colin Prendergast were on hand to help Rec Club Vice President Jason Taylor present the Bruce Prendergast Merit Award to Cameron Smith.

Mo Brothers Raise Money for Prostate Cancer

The NRG "Mervinators" team of Ben Hayden, Cameron Philips, Derek Smith, Brad Greer, Gordon Low, Rob Cook, Steve Felix and Adam Slean were just some of the many thousands of men sprouting moustaches during the month of MOverber.

The group collected over \$6000 during the promotion. A fantastic result!

Team Captain Ben Hayden said MOverber was all about putting down the razor for the month (November) to help raise awareness and funds for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and depression in men.

For Steve Felix this was the first time he had taken part in the promotion.

"Men's health issues don't get discussed much so I felt that by joining the team it would be a good way to open up discussion on the subject," Steve said.

During 2010 it is expected that over 3,000 Australia men will die from prostate cancer and one in eight men will experience depression in their lifetime.

November is now in its seventh year and money raised from the promotion goes towards research into prostate cancer and male depression. Movember is proud partners with the Prostrate Cancer Foundation of Australia and BeyondBlue, the national depression initiative. Further details can be found at: <http://au.movemberfoundation.com/research-and-programs>.

Thanks to all who supported our team and hopefully you will be able to recognise us around the plant again.



"Mervinators" Steve Felix, Adam Slean, Rob Cook and Cameron Philips were keen to raise money for mens health issues.

Whiz Day a Great Success

The WHIZ Family Fun Day held on Sunday 7 November was a great success. The ZIPIT, Wellness Committee and Rec Club Committee worked tirelessly to ensure the day ran smoothly. Around 400 people attended the day with 120 people taking the opportunity to tour the power station via bus.

The day included ZIP presentations, celebrity chef Sally Jenyns, informative stall holders from local providers, QFRS fire demonstrations, face painting and rides, so there was plenty activities for the whole the family. Old McDonalds Farm proved a hit with the children and who could forget the special visits by Sid the Seagull and did you spot the Gorilla?

With the major prize draws, door prizes, stallholder draws and colouring competition, there were over \$5000 in prizes given out on the day.

The WHIZ Committee thanks everyone who helped out in the lead up and on the day, as well as the stallholders and families who came along and actively participated on the day.

By the smiles on the faces in these photos everyone had a lot of fun.



Kevin Reflects on Earthwatch Experience

Units Electrical technician, Kevin Ryan returned from the rainforest near Cairns last month after participating in the Gladstone Power Station Earthwatch Fellowship Program which funds a two week field research project. Kevin reflects on some of his experiences of the trip.

In November I along with 11 other volunteers attended Earthwatch's "Climate Change in the Rainforest" expedition. This took place in the wet tropics world heritage areas around Cairns including South Johnstone, Mt Lewis and Mt Windsor National Parks. The other volunteers came from countries such as America, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand as well as from other states in Australia.

Professor Steven Williams led the expedition and was assisted by five others, each with their own expertise in this field as well as in areas of training and catering. We were encouraged to participate in daily activities related to bird, reptile, bat, gecko and night surveys. We assisted by documenting the different birds heard by Steve or his well trained crew, sometimes from deep within the forest. We would also measure ground and air temperature, humidity and the exact distance travelled during the survey.

Reptile surveys involved us spotting various skinks, snakes, dragons etc, and watching their movements until they were correctly identified by one of the staff. Occasionally specimens were taken back to camp. Here we would assist in recording various body measurements or taking small amounts of tissue for DNA testing.

Bat surveys involved us assisting in the erection and dismantling of specialised traps (Harp Traps). Volunteers were not

permitted to touch any of the bats because of the remote possibility of being infected with a rare deadly virus related to the rabies virus. Staff working in this field were vaccinated against the virus.

Spotting geckos, frogs, possums, gliders as well as other animals was a nightly task. Data was collected from Leaf Tailed Geckos and frogs back at the camp and the specimens were released soon after.

We learnt that climate change is definitely occurring and that the earth is getting warmer at an alarming rate. The ongoing work of Professor Steve Williams and his staff has proven that as a result of this, many animals are moving up to higher, cooler altitudes. Some species such as the beautiful Lemuroid Possums are close to extinction due to this increase in temperature.

Climate change research is vital in collecting evidence so that governments as well as ordinary people like you and me can eventually reverse its effects. Future generations will then be able to enjoy what we have been so privileged to see in our lifetime.

The Earthwatch team's professional and positive approach was encouraging with much care shown to the animals. This extended even to the point of travelling many kilometres to return the specimens to their exact locations after collecting data.

While many of the volunteers came from varied occupations we learnt a lot of new skills which we will keep for a lifetime. Just being able to work with such professionals, seeing their devotion to their work and the thoroughness in which they go about it impressed me greatly.

I will be sharing my experience with workmates both formally and informally in my day to day conversations. It is important to spread the message of climate change as well as the message that "It is not too late to correct it!" Reducing emissions from the coal fired power stations like ours is an important step. I firmly believe that every bit of waste reduction will assist in saving these threatened animals.

Professor Steve Williams and his team ran an excellent 15 day program with an overall message to look after our fragile earth and its creatures. Simply leaving an unneeded light on can have an unnecessary effect on our rain forests and the animals that live there.

Overall the Earthwatch program was a memorable experience and one that I will never forget. Living and working closely with people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds only added to the experience. I am really thankful to the support from NRG and would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone.



Kevin works with Professor Steve Williams recording data and taking DNA samples of reptiles.

Fuel Oil Tank Refurbishment

As part of the contract with BP, who supply fuel oil to GPS, an audit of the fuel oil unloading and storage facilities (dangerous goods) was undertaken in 2008.

This audit identified several areas where the GPS facilities were no longer compliant.

Mechanical engineer Frank Driessen was assigned the task of scoping the project to upgrade the facilities and together with project manager Mark Fleming, they are supervising the repairs.



Mark Fleming is overseeing the refurbishment of the oil tanks.

"The project plan this year is to repair and upgrade Boiler Fuel Oil tank 2 (BFO 2) and return it to service before Christmas and

convert Gas Turbine Tank 3 (GT3) from a fuel tank to a water storage tank" Mark said.

The refurbishment of BFO 2 has involved installing 28 patches on the tank floor, a new concrete ring beam for the floor to shell join, level detection, an improved cathodic protection system and replacement of the bitumen seal on the batter with spray concrete.

As GT 3 is no longer needed to store fuel oil it will be refurbished to hold effluent water.

"Converting the tank to effluent water reduces the need to upgrade the tank to petroleum standards substantially reducing the work required. GT 2 is also being refurbished and will be back in service early in the new-year," Frank said.

"It is expected that that GT 1 and BFO 1 will be refurbished in 2011 with all the tanks being repainted in 2012," Frank added.

GPS Rec Club Adults' Christmas Party

The GPS Rec Club Adults' Christmas party held at the Gladstone Golf Club on Friday 19 November was a great success.

After an entrée of prawns and nibbles, members enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner of roast chicken and ham with vegetables, followed by a selection of desserts.

Jason Taylor handled the MC duties for the night while Bernie's Disco kept everyone entertained with his music. Graeme Hawke was the lucky winner of the Heron Island holiday which was generously donated by Voyages.

On behalf of the Rec Club Committee, I would like to thank our Rec Club Members for their support over the past year and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Katherine Kuppen
GPS Rec Club
Secretary



Wedding Bells for Kym

Kym Haack and partner Ron Donald recently celebrated their combined 40th Birthday party with over 200 guests and a live band to entertain the crowd. The guests had no idea that the couple had also planned a surprise wedding. The bridal party disappeared at 8.00pm to dress for the big event and returned at 9pm to commence with the ceremony.

Local celebrant Judy Whicker and the groomsmen made their grand entrance down the carpet at 9pm. Not long after the bride and the bridesmaids made their grand entrance and the surprise wedding began to unfold.

Kym said the night was absolutely perfect.

"To have so many people share a special part of our lives with us was absolutely fantastic, we wouldn't have wanted it any other way," she said.



Service Register December 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 December.

31 years	Len Dennis
28 years	Mark Bearham
26 years	Peter Kent
21 years	Karen Gibbins

Farewell Draws Old Timers

It was meant to be a quiet send off for four recently retired workmates but in the end it was almost like a past roll call of former GPS retirees who flocked from near and far to give a final send off to Howard Thomson, Selwyn Palmer, Graham Bloomfield and Peter Filtness.

Among the former retirees and long term employees who attended were Roger Beckett, Ray Mantle, George Ryan, Nev Poole, Roy Watts, Gerry Costello, Nino Dezolt, Kim Santakaterina, Mal Leinster, John Dillon, Rod Puller, Pat Riley, Graeme Watts, Brian Clarke, Larry Brushe, Brad Jenson, Tracey Wright and Peter Wendt.

Recent retiree Larry Brushe was surprised to see so many former employees he had not seen for a long time.

"It was great to catch up with people who had retired from the station a long time ago. I never expected to see people like Rod Puller so it was good that many people like him made the effort to come," Larry said.

From all reports Larry's feelings were echoed by all who attended.



Howard, Eddie, Peter, Selwyn and Graham were happy to pose for a photo at the farewell function.



George Bennetts reminisces with Ray Mantle and Brian Clarke.

Farewell Kevin Peagam

After nearly 32 years in the electricity industry Station Electrical fitter Kevin Peagam is heading to "browner pastures" in Western Australia. Kev has taken up a job as a maintenance electrician with the Port Hedland Port Authority.

Kevin started his career in January 1979 as an apprentice electrician at Callide "A" after having attended Biloela State High School. Following the closure of "A" station Kevin moved to GPS working initially under Claude Powe in the power systems area.

"At the time I worked with Col Johnston, Bill Vleodemans, Ray Sumner, Maurie Sorrenson, and Peter Grundon," Kevin recalled.

In the following years Kevin worked in the auxiliaries and fuel plant areas under a succession of supervisors including Greg Powe, Alan Treloar, Mark Bearham, Dennis Zimmerlie, Peter Caughey, Ray Que and Gary Porteous.

"It's been good getting to work in all areas of the plant but the Units Electrical area has been the most challenging and rewarding due to the higher level of technology in that area," Kevin said.

During his time in the industry Kevin has been a dedicated member of the fire and emergency response teams both here and at Callide. With 27 years to his credit, Kevin's experience and enthusiasm for the team will be sorely missed. Added to that Kevin also spent 12 years as delegate and co delegate for the Electrical Trades Union.

Outside of work Kevin has appreciated the opportunity to travel to Africa on two occasions taking in countries such as Uganda, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa.

"These trips have been a real highlight for me, allowing me to meet new friends and experience a different culture and lifestyle," Kevin said.

Kevin hopes one day he might get the opportunity to actually live in Africa for a period of time.

Throughout his time in Gladstone, Kevin and his family have enjoyed a strong association with the Catholic community through their active involvement with Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School and Chanel College.

"While I am going to miss our great harbour, the fishing and camping and the camaraderie of the workmates I am looking forward to furthering my career and taking on new challenges in the future," Kevin said.



Superintendent Units Electrical Gary Porteous shares a humorous moment at Kev's farewell.