

Flood Appeal Raises over \$70,000

Support for the victims of Queensland's Floods has flowed in from NRG employees across the world with \$70,023 being raised to support the Premier's Flood Appeal.

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations Glenn "Shoey" Schumacher said the Queensland floods along with Tropical Cyclone Yasi had made for a very difficult start to the year.

To support the Premier's Appeal NRG offered to match employee donations on a dollar for dollar basis.

"I am happy to report that NRG Gladstone Operating Services has matched the employee donations of \$14,555 allowing us to make a combined contribution from employees and NRRGOS of \$29,110 to the appeal," Shoey said.

"I am also extremely pleased to announce that our colleagues in America from NRG Energy Inc have rallied together and contributed a further \$41,000 to support the appeal," Shoey added.

NRG Energy Inc President and CEO David Crane said employees from every NRG region across the states had supported the campaign.

"The funds are a starting point to help people re-establish their homes as they also work to rebuild their communities. On behalf

of the entire NRG management team, I want to thank those who participated in the campaign for your efforts to this worthy cause," he said.



Executive Assistant, Bernie Lawson and Manager Business Services, Geoffrey Sorensen check out all the donations for the Premier's Flood Appeal.

Trucking of Coal from RG Tanner Coal Terminal Underway

NRG are presently trucking coal from RG Tanner Coal Terminal to the coal slot bunker. The plan is to move approximately 40,000 tonnes during February. This has become necessary due to the disruption of our regular coal supplies.



Coal from RG Tanner Terminal is unloaded at the coal plant slot bunker.

Setting up the transfer of the coal by road has been quite involved and included discussions with the Main Roads Department, Gladstone Regional Council and the Police. As well, NRG have been working closely with the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) to ensure the transfer operations run smoothly.

The haul route passes through the rear gates of the GPC site adjacent to the Calliope River, along the Ash Pond Road, Port Curtis Way, Red Rover Road and then into the rear gates of GPC.

To maintain public awareness daily notices have been placed in the Gladstone Observer.

The operation runs from 6am to 4.30pm Monday to Saturday. A pre start meeting is held each morning with all loader, truck operators and road maintenance crew to ensure health, safety and environmental concerns are addressed. The meeting is run by NRG, and a member of the GPC also attends these meetings. Two way radios are used to assist in traffic safety.

Yarwun Quarries won the contract for loading and trucking the coal and a company called Actprom have been assisting with the haul road preparation and maintenance. NRG have also engaged CQ Traffic Control to assist with traffic control issues.

From Shoey's Desk

New O.M.A.

Dear Folks

On 30 March 2011 NRG Gladstone Operating Services (NRGGOS) will have been the Operator of the Gladstone Power Station (GPS) on behalf of the GPS owners for 17 years. The Agreement or contract under which we have been working is known as the Operations and Maintenance Agreement (OMA). On 30 March, the original OMA ends. After 31 March we will be operating under a new Agreement or contract. The new Agreement is for five years and then will have to be re-negotiated.

During 2010 a lot of effort went into demonstrating to the owners of Gladstone Power Station that we were the best people to operate and maintain this power station for the next five years. Clearly, we have successfully done that.

The challenge for us at GPS over the next five years is to prove that GPS is a viable operation and that we are the best people to

operate and maintain it beyond 2016. There is no doubt that the next few years is going to have more than its fair share of issues. However, we start today to address those issues and move this business forward.

In my view, we are all at a very significant point in the history of GPS. A point that may well determine the life and nature of Gladstone Power Station in the future.

GPS OUR FUTURE

Regards
SHOEY
Glenn Schumacher
General Manager

First Pacific National Train Rolls into GPS

The first ever Pacific National train rolled into the coal plant on Thursday 27 January. The train was carrying around 3,000 tonne of coal from the Blair Athol Mine.

"As coal supplies have been impacted due to the effects of the flooding, this was a test run to see that we were able to receive coal from Pacific National and the mine."

"The trains have a slightly different configuration from our normal QR Trains with a locomotive both at the front and the rear of the train," he said.

The train was unloaded without any problems. Superintendent Fuel Handling, Darren Ross said it was expected up to 60,000 tonne of coal would be delivered from the mine over the next couple of months.



The first ever Pacific National Train rolled into the coal plant in January.

Louise Looks Forward to Traineeship

This month we welcome new administration trainee, Louise Lund.

Louise will spend the next 12 months on the reception and assisting with recruitment in the Human Resources section. She will also have the opportunity to complete her Certificate III in Business Administration.



Louise completed her Year 12 studies at Gladstone State High and plans to commence a Bachelor of Business degree in Human Resources in 2012.

Louise said she is enjoying learning new things and getting to know the people at the station.

"I'd like to get as much experience as I can before I head off to uni next year," she said.

Louise may look familiar to some employees as she completed work experience at NRG last year. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and her main interests outside of work include camping and cooking.

Meanwhile former trainee Kyra Bell has taken up employment at Axial as an administration assistant.

Kyra is also studying part time for a Bachelor of Professional Communication through CQUniversity.

New administration trainee Louise Lund farewells former trainee Kyra Bell.

Apprentices Kick Start New Careers at NRG

After an extensive recruiting process nine new apprentices kick started their working careers at NRG on 1 February.

The new apprentices are Jayden Adams, Luke Neill, Hamish Nicholls, Shelton Hayward (mechanical) Mitchell Hallinan, Dylan Stitt, Matthew Powell, Mitchell Inwood (electrical) and Joseph Richardson (fabrication). The nine apprentices were selected from 187 applicants.

For the first two weeks the apprentices will attend the Gladstone College of TAFE where they will receive training in the basic trade skills.

Upon returning to NRG they will then build on and add to these skills with specific NRG on-the-job training. To achieve this each apprentice is assigned to a responsible superintendent who will oversee their development at NRG. Mentors in each workgroup along with assistance from the maintenance workforce will provide the technical skills to allow the apprentices to become successful tradespeople.

The apprentices are then placed on a rotating system through all of the maintenance sections to gain a wide range of skills by completing allocated work in each section.

NRG Specialist Training and Development, John Marxsen said the apprentices selected had fulfilled all the selection criteria as well as demonstrating an enthusiasm and commitment to pursuing a trade.

"We aim to develop in apprentices a self motivated willingness to learn. This will allow them to take their place within the maintenance teams as a valued team member," John said.

"This is a great opportunity for the apprentices to develop a career for the future. Employing apprentices is not only beneficial for NRG but for the Gladstone community in the long term," John added.

The induction of the nine new apprentices brings the total number of apprentices on site at Gladstone Power Station to 37. This year marks the thirty seventh year that Gladstone Power Station has been providing highly skilled tradesmen for the Gladstone region. Approximately 457 apprentices have completed their apprenticeship training at GPS since 1976.



(L-R Rear) Joseph Richardson, Mitchell Hallinan, Matthew Powell, Shelton Hayward and Mitchell Inwood.
(L-R Front) Jayden Adams, Luke Neill, Dylan Stitt and Hamish Nicholls.

Publishing of History Book Underway

Publishing of the Gladstone Power Station history is well underway with the books expected to be delivered by CQUniversity Press in early May.

Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Community, George Bennetts was enthusiastic about the completion of the book and was looking forward to having a launch for the book in mid May to coincide with Owners Reps who will be on site for a quarterly meeting.



Barbara and CQUniversity publishing consultant Mark Svendsen took time out on their tour of the station to talk to Russell Hunt, George Bennetts, Mark Fleming and Neil Pease.

"Barbara has done a fantastic job and I'm sure our employees will find it a fascinating read," George said.

Work on the book began in July 2008 with Dr Barbara Webster from CQUniversity commissioned to write the book. Barbara has spent many hours searching government archives, newspapers and other documents and interviewing around 80 current and former employees.

Rather than just providing a factual history Barbara said the book would provide an interpretation of GPS through the eyes of the employees who had worked at the station.

She said the scale of the project had been much bigger than originally planned.

"I anticipated the initial manuscript to be around 80,000 words but it grew to around 120,000 words," Barbara said.

The book has been titled "Power People – A History of Gladstone Power Station" and has fourteen chapters. The first half covers the chronological history while the second half explores working life and culture at GPS based largely on stories told by past and present employees.

Well known businessman and philanthropist Bill Golding has written a Forward for the book while former Mayor Peter Coronos has penned an endorsement for the back cover.

Steve Lewis Celebrates 25 Years

(**M**anager Major Projects, Steve Lewis joined the NRG 25 year Club on 13 January. With a successful and varied career to date, Steve took time out to reflect on some of the major highlights of his time in the electricity industry.)

Being a born and bred local Steve spent his early years attending Star of the Sea, Channel College and Gladstone State High School.

After leaving high school in 1981 he was indentured as a cadet electrical engineer with the Capricorn Electricity Board (CEB) for four years. At the time there was a shortage of engineers and Steve was paid an apprentice wage while studying at the Capricorn Institute of Advanced Education.

Following the completion of his degree, Steve worked for a year with CEB in Rockhampton before moving on to QEC's system control at Belmont in Brisbane. As part of the rotation process he then spent time on construction at Callide B and a further two years in transmission planning grid controls based in Mary St Brisbane. Whilst with grid controls he spent time at Kareeya Power Station where he worked on a very interesting project to automate the station and also was part of the Qld Rail Electrification Project.

Steve joined GPS in April 1990 working as a control systems engineer on the Plant Improvement Project (PIP). When the group disbanded in 1991 Steve moved into the Engineering Control Systems Group working for John James. During the next seven years he was mainly involved in the Control Systems Upgrade Project which led to him taking on responsibility for all electrical projects onsite in 1998.

Steve says his most recent role as the Manager of Major Projects has been the most exciting period of his career.

"When I started in the late 1980's and early 1990's the QEC was buying a lot of new equipment for the stations. We then went through a stable period where there was very little upgrade to plant. During the last few years we have been gradually replacing plant again in the form of new ash hoppers, transformers and a generator. We are now looking at a generator program which could potentially see three new generators purchased for up to \$60 million which is very exciting," Steve said.

When asked about the highlights of his career Steve recalled his visits to overseas power plants and the major repair work carried out on Unit 2 Generator in 2006.

"We had a failure in the end winding which meant a rewind of the generator. We were sourcing replacement windings from Siemens and flew into the old East Germany where Siemens had a new factory that had the original manufacturing jigs for the Gladstone machines stored which was a great experience at the time," Steve said.

"I have been fortunate that in my role I have been able to travel to Europe, Asia and America. Some of the highlights have been working for NRG Energy at Shinchu Power Station in Taiwan and Killinghome Power Station in the UK and visiting the Beznau nuclear plant in Switzerland.

"Visiting the factories of both ABB in Switzerland and Siemens in Germany was a real eye opener. You get to see some



General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glenn Schumacher congratulates Steve on his 25 years in the electricity industry.

of the biggest generation plant in the world which included the worlds largest generator at 2200MW," Steve said.

As well as the variety of work and the opportunity to travel Steve says it is the people here that have made GPS an enjoyable place to work.

"From the first day I started the people here have always been very welcoming and willing to share their experiences. There's always been a great social atmosphere here particularly in the early days."

Steve' love of the harbour and sailing have been one of things that have kept him from leaving the harbour town.

"The afternoon sea breeze and the smell of the salt air are the things I enjoy most in the late afternoons."

These days most of Steve's spare time is taken up developing his skills on the golf course.

"My two children Ben and Morgan are keen golfers so it's a good way to spend more time with the children," he said.

Upcoming Community Events

Clean-up Australia Day

The twenty first national Clean-up Australia Day is scheduled for **Sunday 6 March** and interested employees and their families are invited to volunteer their services for the morning.

This will be the twentieth year GPS has participated in this worthwhile program which aims to make people more aware of the environment and the need to recycle and to reduce the amount of waste. If you would like to be part of this community service please contact Gary Macnamara on ext 504.

NRG Great Raft Race

NRG is once again sponsoring The Great Raft Race at the 2010 Gladstone Harbour Festival. The race will be held on Good **Friday 22 April at the Goondoon Street Boat Ramp.**

NRG's sponsorship is \$11,000. Brad Zillman is leading a team of fourth year apprentices in creating a raft which will recreate the CW Gantry Crane. Please come along and support our team.

Ecofest

This year's Ecofest will be held on **Sunday 5 June from 9 - 3pm at the Gladstone Botanical Gardens.** NRG is a sponsor of the event and will be featuring a display. Interested employees are invited to assist for part of the day. Times are 7-9am, 9 -11.30am, 11.30-1.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm. Please contact Gary Macnamara on ext 504.

For Sale

Mazda MPV Wagon 7 Seater, Yr 2000 Excellent condition, rego to April 11, 189,000 Kms Ph Debbie or Stephen 4979 0937.

Dave Reflects on Earthwatch Experience

(Production Engineering Technical Officer David Lahey returned from a rainforest experience in Northern New South Wales last month after participating in the Gladstone Power Station Earthwatch Fellowship Program. The fellowship funds a two week field research project. Dave reflected on some of his experiences of the trip.)

In January I was part of the Earthwatch Program to help scientists learn more about the vanishing frog species in the rainforests of the Great Dividing Range in Northern New South Wales.

Our expedition consisted of 11 Earthwatch volunteers, an Earthwatch employee, Sara Davis, biologists Michael Mahoney, Ross Knowles and Dean Ross and Michael's amazing 16 year-old son Stephen who could find and catch frogs (as well as lizards and geckos) at an astonishing rate.

The Earthwatch volunteers came from the UK, Japan, the USA and from within Australia. It took very little time for everyone to become acquainted and learn the ropes of the cooking, cleaning and erection of the tents. We had a remarkably harmonious group who all seemed to enjoy each other's company despite being tested by the leeches, mud and atrocious weather conditions.

We travelled to our study sites in a Toyota troop carrier, a Hilux dual cab ute, and a Suzuki 2-door Vitara. Our three study sites were: Desert Creek on the edge of the Washpool Wilderness, Washpool Creek and surrounds within the Gibraltar Range National Park and Dorrigo National Park. All three sites are "sky islands" because they are the highest parts of the Great Dividing Range. Plants and animals seeking to maintain their ideal living conditions are "marooned" on their sky islands, not being able to move any further upwards to cope with climate change.

Sampling of both mature and tadpole-stage Southern Barred Frog involved the volunteers catching them and taking them to expedition leader Michael Mahoney for DNA swabbing and microchip scanning. Tadpoles' mouth parts were swabbed while the skin of the rear legs and bellies were swabbed on the adults. The DNA swabbing was to determine the presence or absence of Chytrid fungus. The tadpoles and frogs were then released back where they had been captured.

The swelling of the streams from persistent rain during our expedition meant that the tadpoles were hiding in protected areas amongst thick creek bank vegetation. Suitable tadpoles for swabbing were as large as possible but without any signs of transformation into frogs.

The Southern Barred Frog was chosen because they are likely to be affected adversely as their habitat becomes dryer and warmer through long-term climate change. The research project is at the stage of gathering base-line data about their populations within the Gondwana rainforests of Australia. We went to three of the sites being studied, staying two nights at each. In present-day Australia these ancient rainforests are confined to the Eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range in Northern NSW and along the Queensland/NSW border.

The adult frogs were only active at night and were mainly found using eye-shine from head-torches. The ever-present rain meant that eye-shine was very hard to differentiate from reflections from droplets of water. The Southern Barred Frogs were also very well camouflaged so finding them was quite a challenge. Sometimes the conditions were just right for them to call and they could be found by pairs of volunteers working a few metres apart using their hearing to locate the frog by triangulation. Playing

recordings of the call using an MP3 player through a loud hailer sometimes induced them to call back.

The first place we camped was at Washpool North campsite which was famous for being the site of an anti-logging protest held in 1979. Public support for the protest was very strong and the logging of the Washpool Wilderness by the NSW government forestry department was stopped by a court decision. The area was declared National Park in 1983 and achieved World Heritage listing status in 1986.

Ross Knowles and Stephen Mahoney took some remarkable close-up photos of frogs and geckos which can be seen in a gallery on the "Earthwatch" Facebook page.

Despite the rain, the Earthwatch expedition was thoroughly enjoyable and there were many memorable experiences - like catching tadpoles in the rain late at night while chest-deep in a rainforest stream.

I would like to thank NRG for the opportunity to participate and would recommend the "Australia's Vanishing Frogs" Earthwatch Expedition to potential volunteers.



David collects a sample of the Southern Barred Frog.

*** REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY ***

Free Breakfast

Sunday
13 March 2011

Toonoon Botanic Gardens
Main Rotunda (Arboretum Shelter)
(First turn left after entering main gate at Gardens)

Breakfast 8am to 9am
Limited seating available - bring a chair or picnic blanket

PLEASE REGISTER
To assist with numbers for catering, please register with:
Katherine Kuppen ext 723
Lynda Casey ext 256

Gladstone Power Station Recreation Club Inc

LAKE MONDURAN

JUNE 17-20

Meals:
REC CLUB PROVIDES:

- Saturday 18th - breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Sunday 19th - breakfast & lunch

Cabins (3 available) & 3 Bedroom House (2 available):
Call Lake Monduran direct 1800 228 754
• Quote GPS Rec Club when booking

Facilities:

- On-site kiosk with ice, gas & tackle
- Camp kitchen with BBQ, fridge, sink
- Clean amenities with hot showers
- Free wireless internet • Laundry area
- Dump point • Fish cleaning tables
- On-site fishing guide
- Big Barra Boat hire

Activities:

- Entertainment, music & family games
- Outdoor family movie (Saturday night)
- Local wine tasting (Saturday night)
- Kayaking in the dam
- Fishing & boat hire

Cost:
ONLY \$5 PER PERSON
(5 years and under free)
to contribute to cost of food.
PAY FOR YOUR OWN ACCOMMODATION.

Tent/Camper Trailer/Caravan Sites:

- Powered \$12 per adult per night
- Unpowered \$10 per adult per night
- \$8 per child per night (aged 4-15)

The Rec Club has tentatively booked several cabins, houses and powered sites. Book before May 31 to guarantee accommodation. Bookings will still be taken after May 31 on a first-in first-served basis.

Booking Info & Queries Contact:
Rod Brown - ext 102 or 0418 852 362 • Grant Sutherland - ext 529 or 0427 122 139
*** REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY *** REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY *** REC CLUB MEMBERS ONLY ***

Getting Personal with Graduate Information Services Officer Dylan Carmichael

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

There seems to be a "get it right, not just working" attitude and everyone has been wonderfully friendly.

What have you enjoyed about your new role?

I've loved the opportunity to try new things outside the area of "what's been done here before." Working in a team of IT people is fantastic and dynamic, something that I haven't really experienced until now.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I finished my honours and moved to Gladstone in late 2008, where I started as the IT guy at Chandlers. In mid 2009 I moved to Education Queensland as a Computer Technician. My experience has tended to revolve less around the technical aspects of IT and more around customer service and training. (ie getting stuff working again and showing people how to use it).

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

An opportunity to work on an industrial site was a chance to do something new and NRG has a reputation for being fantastic to work for!

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

For a long time I kept an aquarium. I'm a big reader (mainly fantasy novels, but if it's a good book, I'll probably love it) and I love to cook! I've inherited a fantastic family tree work which I hope to improve on. I'd also like to spend more time on my computer security research project sometime soon as well.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

It's a nice place and a friendly town. We were made to feel quite welcome when we got here. It's a pretty little place with a great general atmosphere.

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

I was born in Melbourne but did Prep to Grade 6 in Upper Burnie Primary School in Tasmania. I then completed Yr 6-10 at Penguin High and then Back to Burnie's Hellyer College for Yr 11 and 12.



Tell us a little bit about your family.

My partner Don and I live with our two dogs in New Auckland. Both our families are back in Tasmania so we go back there when we can. I'm the oldest of three children and son to two pastors - a humanities teacher, a maths/science/IT Teacher and a psychologist. (two parents with three degrees each) My sister is a furniture designer and my brother is still at University of Tasmania doing photography and Japanese.

My worst habit is...

Rambling. I do it a lot! I see a tangent and I tend to follow it. Like the time when I...

At home I like to cook...

Everything! Stir-fries, pasta dishes, rice, casseroles, absolutely anything sweet and delicious. About the only thing I don't like cooking is meat and three veg!

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

Tasmania - it was the first time I went home after moving here - I hadn't seen my family in 18 months.

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

Any kind of sport - you name it, I've probably lost it!

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

Making the move from Tasmania - it's a tough decision to leave family and friends for the unknown, but I'm glad I did!

Work Continues on Hazard Reduction Program

Since the Sale of the Station in 1994, NRG instigated a planned program to try and reduce or eliminate identified hazards at Gladstone Power Station.

Safety and Environment Officer, Dave Greinke said that many of the identified hazards were associated with working from heights, access to plant and equipment and manual handling.



Dave Greinke checks out the wall sheeting that is being replaced as part of this year's hazard reduction.

"These issues present some of the greatest risks associated with operating the station so we have spent a lot of time and money on projects to reduce or eliminate these hazards. The solutions to the identified hazards are not always obvious and it is the involvement of the workgroup employees that work in that environment that often produces the most practical and effective solutions," Dave said.

Some of the projects completed during 2010 include:

- Separation of acid and caustic storage tanks at 1 to 4 demin plant.
- Repairing of handrails and kick plates.
- Improved access to trippers, hoists, cranes and valves.
- Purchase of a pulveriser rotor tow tug vehicle for moving of pulveriser rotors.
- Units 1 to 4 demin plant vessel harness anchorage points.
- Crane access platforms at the slot bunker.

Planned projects for 2011 include:

- Main car park resurfacing.
- 1 to 4 demin plant upgrade - Improved access and egress as well as improved lighting.
- Replacement of sheeting on coal plant transfer towers.
- Installation of storage platforms on boiler level 4 near the lifts and the installation of new winch systems.
- Improved access for maintenance of the Units 1 to 4 detention pond.

NRG Volunteers Assist in Island Rehabilitation

Regular readers of Gladrag may recall previous reports on the rehabilitation work being undertaken on Tryon Island, a coral cay 85 km North-west of Gladstone.



The bare Pisonia cuttings planted in 2006.

Most of the large Pisonia trees that formed the previously dense forest on this island have succumbed to a biological attack by scale insects and have died.

Scale insects suck sap from their host plant to survive. They also produce a sweet, sticky substance called 'honeydew', which is a food source for many common ant species. Ants attracted by honeydew will farm scale insect and often interfere with their predators. They may even move scale insect eggs to new sites. This mutually beneficial relationship between scale insects and ants maintains a natural balance with scale insects normally held in check by natural predators such as native ladybirds and parasitic wasps. Sometimes, however, the number of scale insects in a Pisonia forest explodes, creating an 'outbreak'. In response to the increased food supply, outbreaks are also accompanied by an explosion in the number of ants, particularly the introduced African big-head ant.

In August 1993, an outbreak of scale insects was detected in Tryon Island's Pisonia forest. At this time, Pisonia covered nearly half the island. This was the first known scale outbreak in a Pisonia forest of the Capricornia Cays and one of the world's earliest records. Expectations were that natural predators, ladybirds and parasitic wasps would bring the outbreak under control.

Following the initial scale infestation, the forests appeared to be recovering as expected, with previously affected trees showing new growth. After repeated episodes of defoliation resulting from scale attack, many Pisonia trees died and introduced weeds began to flourish in their place. It took seven to eight years before scale numbers subsided but even after the outbreak had ended, the forest did not regenerate as might have been expected. Today, 90 percent of Tryon Island's original Pisonia forest has disappeared.

Once it became clear that the forest could not recover naturally, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) began a restoration program. Trial plantings in 2004 and 2005 indicated a need for more detailed investigations and a more comprehensive trial began in July 2006. QPWS staff and a team of volunteers began working to determine the most effective techniques for regenerating Pisonia. A successful ant-baiting program was also undertaken which has eliminated Tryon Island's introduced ant population, with no visible effects on native species.

The volunteers have visited Tryon Island every year for the past six years to assist in the restoration of the natural vegetation on Tryon Island. In August this year QPWS staff together with a crew of volunteers including John Mann, Marion Bowers and Larry and Joy Brushe spent a week on Tryon Island.

A vegetation survey of the island was undertaken and this is repeated every three years to monitor changes in flora. Monitoring of the invertebrate population is done annually to assess the effectiveness of the ant baiting program on the introduced ants and to monitor the populations of other invertebrates on the island.

The 32 Pisonia trial planting plots were also monitored. The results of the trial plantings are very encouraging. In the four years since these trial plots were planted by QPWS staff and volunteers, many of the plots have shown remarkable growth.

The pictures below show the growth in the most vigorous plot. The first picture shows the bare cuttings planted in 2006. The second picture shows Larry Brushe standing under the same cuttings now transformed into small trees, over five metres tall.

These young Pisonias, together with many others in the trial plots, are now re-establishing the habitat required by Wedgetail Shearwaters (mutton birds) that breed in burrows they dig amongst the roots.

Using the knowledge gained from the planting trials, some fill-in planting was also undertaken this year. Further fill-in planting will be undertaken in subsequent years to further re-establish the Pisonia forest on the island.

I would like to thank NRG for supporting this work. NRG's main contribution has been the donation of deep cycle batteries to power a computer on the island and cables to connect solar panels on the beach to equipment in camp. This has been of invaluable assistance, allowing the vast amounts of recorded data to be entered into a computer, validated and reviewed whilst on the island.



Larry Brushe

The same cuttings in late 2010.

Service Register – February/March 2011

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 and February and March.

40 years Greg Nugent
 36 years Noel Else
 33 years Simon Sutton
 32 years John Marxsen
 31 years Jeff Norris, Nev O'Connor

30 years Tony Padget, Alan O'Rourke, Dale Hempseed, Neville Beckman, Paul Lowry, John Hunt, Paul Cupitt
 29 years Mick Chadwick, Mark Sandland, Ken Harris, Ian Dodd
 28 years Keith Brown
 27 years John Leinster
 26 years Graham Lester
 25 years Greg McDiarmid
 24 years Kev Ryan, John Lynch
 16 years Ruth Searston, Derek Jarram

Where are they now? – Rhonda Rowe

What period did you work at GPS?

I started as a temporary employee in May 1990. I then gained a permanent role and stayed until June 1999.



Rhonda with her daughter Arlen.

Tell us about your roles at the station.

I started a on the front reception for a three month period, then got the permanent role of Word Processor Operator. I then successfully applied for a position in Production Engineering with Paul Borchardt. I also acted as the General

Manager's Secretary for a few long periods. In amongst all that I had a period in Accounts and another in the Mailroom.

What are your fondest memories of working at the station and who are some of the people you enjoyed working with?

I enjoyed the mateship that was at the station. The people looked after each other and you felt you were part of a family. The Rec Club events and Happy Hours were great. I remember water-skiing at the dam and the booze cruises (can we call them that now)!

The majority of people at the station were great! In the Production Engineering Team I enjoyed working with Jeff Bowers, Cameron Purdon, James Shand, Paul Borchardt and Gordy Lawrence. Paul and Gordy especially were great to work with and taught me so much. In the extended Engineering team Larry Brushe, Mel Leinster, Don Shambrook, Russell Watson, Janine Papamichael were great along with the Operators – Nino Dezolt, George Ryan, Greg Nugent, Nev O'Connor and Derrick Hetherington. Who could forget the girls - Tracy Buchanan, Sandy Sonleitner, Sandy Hunt, Jenny Yates, Robyn Handley, Michelle Holmes and Tracey Wright.

What did you enjoy about living in Gladstone?

Gladstone had everything you wanted. It was a great place for the kids with lots of sporting activities for them. We also made lots of good friends whilst at Gladstone.

What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

I left Gladstone to join Stanwell Corporation. I spent six years at Stanwell Power Station as the Management Support Officer and Community Relations Officer. I then moved into the Rockhampton office as the Wind and Hydro Operations Services Co-ordinator for 12 months before moving to Brisbane. Two years ago I took on the additional role as Wivenhoe Small Hydro Site Manager. At the moment I am Acting Site Manager at Barron Gorge Hydro. The family have all moved to Brisbane and we do a fair bit of camping and site seeing around the area.

Do you still keep up with any GPS employees?

I catch up with Sandy Hunt via emails. Over the years I have met up with Graham Bloomfield, Mel Leinster, Larry Brushe and Gordy Lawrence. I worked with Phil David at Stanwell Corporation and keep in regular contact with him. I am also in regular contact with Michael and Janine Papamichael as Michael also works for Stanwell Corporation.

What do you enjoy about living in Brisbane?

I like the convenience of having everything within easy access and available at most times of the day. Going to concerts and events is easier along with the proximity to camping, attractions and the beaches.

Tell us a little bit about your family?

My husband Cliff has his own mini tipper business and he enjoys the flexibility of working for himself. Daughter Arlen is a gymnastics coach and has also started her own kinda gym business. Our son Ben is the Business Class Co-ordinator for one of the cab companies in Brisbane.

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

Getting Personal with Part Time Senior Accountant Gaye Bebendorf

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

I really enjoy working at GPS, the people are all very friendly and helpful.

What have you enjoyed about your role?

My role is very diverse and offers me flexibility in working hours.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I worked at QAL as a Financial Accountant between 1992 and 1999 and went back on contract as a Management Accountant a couple of times since then. I have been with GPS since September 2009.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

I was attracted by the flexibility offered by the role.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

I enjoy shopping of course and spending time with family and friends.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

Gladstone is small enough to be friendly but large enough to offer plenty of opportunities.

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

I was born and bred in Gladstone and attended South State Primary School and Gladstone State High.

Tell us a little bit about your family

I am married to Wade and have three children – Sam (11), Holly (9) and Joe (4)

My worst habit is... Eating too much chocolate!

At home I like to cook... Italian

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

– the kids first big trip away

You wouldn't know it but I'm

no good at ... housework

The hardest thing I've ever

done was... being a mother!

