

## **Dominique Wins Prestigious NRG Energy Inc Scholarship**

It was a proud day for Units Electrical technician Kev Ryan when his youngest daughter Dominique was announced as one of four winners of the inaugural NRG Energy Inc Howard E. Cosgrove Academic Scholarship.

The prestigious scholarship honours Howard Cosgrove who has served as Chairman of the Board of NRG Energy, Inc. since December 2003.

The scholarship rewards superior academic performance, exemplary non academic achievements and adherence to NRG core values and is for students who have recently graduated from high school.

Dominique is currently studying for a Bachelor of Clinical Sciences, Majoring in Osteopathy at Southern Cross University Lismore campus and was ecstatic after receiving an email from Nancy Kieling, President of Princeton Area Community Foundation in America. The foundation will administer the scholarship.

"I was very surprised and excited after reading the email informing me of my successful application."

President and CEO NRG Energy Inc, David Crane invited Dominique to attend the scholarship presentation in the United

States, however she is unsure at this stage if she can attend due to her university commitments.

"I am really enjoying my course in Osteopathy and find that it gives me a far greater appreciation of the human body." Dominique said.

Dominique said the four year scholarship would help pay for her university costs, including accommodation and food, HECS fees, textbooks and special equipment required for the course.

Well done to Dominique and all the outstanding candidates who nominated from GPS.



*Dominique was surprised and excited after winning the NRG Energy Inc Howard E Cosgrove Academic Scholarship.*

## **NRG Energy Inc Triple-Matches Employee Donations to Contribute Nearly \$300,000 for Japan Disaster Relief**

Responding to the devastation and dire humanitarian need of the Japanese people following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, the employees of NRG Energy, Inc. raised \$73,000, (which the Company triple-matched through its NRG Global Giving program, bringing the total contribution to \$292,000).

NRG's President and CEO, David Crane said more than 500 employees responded to the call for donations to help the Japanese people in their grave time of need.

"I am proud of the outpouring of assistance by NRG personnel for our friends across the ocean. Our efforts for Japan, as well as recent efforts for those affected by disasters in Queensland, Australia and in Haiti, testify to the great character and generosity of our employees," he said.

The donation was dispersed to emergency aid groups in prefectures such as Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima, which saw the most devastation from the event.

## From Shoey's Desk Gladstone - Our Community

Dear Folks

There is no doubt that Gladstone is an industrial city however, at the moment there is a lot of debate in this community about the extent and rate of new development and the pressures that may bring to Gladstone. Indeed the role of industry in Gladstone, both new and existing has been the subject of a lot of debate over recent years. Clearly without industry Gladstone would be a very different place and many of us would not be living here. But, it is my view that the community has a legitimate right to expect industries to play their role as a good corporate citizen and to a large extent I think industry has come to accept that it does need the support of the communities in which they find themselves.

The real difficulty becomes when we all try and work out what being a "good corporate citizen" actually means. Different companies have different views about what they should and should not do in the community. At the same time, members of community have different expectations about what industry should be doing or indeed not doing. So, how do we find ways for industry and community to work together to get the best outcome for all involved.

NRG Gladstone Power Station generally has a very good reputation in the Gladstone community and we work hard behind the scenes to nurture that reputation. But, we cannot rest on our laurels and say we are ok and any problems belong to the other blokes. No, if our reputation is to be real, we must be focused on making a real difference here in Gladstone. Now that is not to say that industry has all the solutions; far from it. But, we do have a role to play as members of this community.

So that is all fine, but what are we doing? One key area that we are trying very hard to develop is a better understanding of real issues in Gladstone and how we can play our part in making Gladstone a better place for us all to live in. NRG Gladstone Power Station was a founding member a few years back of an organisation called The Gladstone Industry Leadership Group or GILG. You may have seen the regular articles in the newspaper from the GILG Chief Executive Officer, Kurt Heidecker talking about various issues. But who is GILG and what is it trying to achieve?

Originally GILG formed in response to community concerns about the health impacts from industry emissions. Industry realised that a collective approach was needed where industry worked together with the community and government to resolve concerns. Now, there is a realisation that industry's role and responsibility goes well beyond just one issue.

GILG's members are:

- Cement Australia (CA);
- Orica Yarwun;
- Rio Tinto Alcan Yarwun (RTAY);
- Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL);
- Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL);
- NRG Gladstone Operating Services (Gladstone Power Station).

GILG has a Board made up of the GMs from each of the above operations and a fulltime CEO, Kurt Heidecker. A key part of the CEO's job is to understand community concerns and to ensure these are heard and acted upon by industry where industry can make a difference.

GILG recognises that the Gladstone Community has an important role as watchdogs and critics of industry's performance. Satisfying those concerns is vital to industry's long term future. As a result GILG's priorities are to improve industry's community engagement, environmental transparency and accountability for our performance.

Now GILG is not the whole answer to our involvement in the community in which we live. Playing our part in the life of this community and hopefully making a difference is something that is always changing and something that we must work at all the time. I do not think that there is any doubt that Gladstone will change over the next few years and we will have more than our share of challenges. The way we will get the best outcome is if all of us work together to get what's best for Gladstone.

**Why not visit the GILG Website and have a look at GILG for yourself. The Web address is: [www.gilg.com.au](http://www.gilg.com.au)**



Regards  
SHOEY  
Glenn Schumacher  
GENERAL MANAGER

## NRG Energy Inc. Provides Greater Clarity on the South Texas Nuclear Development

Recognizing the diminished prospects for the South Texas Nuclear Development Project as a result of the ongoing nuclear incident in Japan, NRG Energy, Inc. announced it will write down its investment in the development of South Texas Project units 3&4. NRG further announced that, while it will cooperate with and support its current partners and any prospective future partners in attempting to develop STP 3&4 successfully, NRG will not invest additional capital in the STP development effort.

President and CEO of NRG Energy Inc. David Crane said the tragic nuclear incident in Japan had introduced multiple uncertainties around new nuclear development in the United States which had

the effect of dramatically reducing the probability that STP 3&4 could be successfully developed in a timely fashion.

"We continue to believe both in the absolute necessity of a U.S. nuclear renaissance and that STP 3&4 is the best new nuclear development project in the country bar none. However, the extraordinary challenges facing U.S. nuclear development in the present circumstance and the very considerable financial resources expended by NRG on the project over the past five years make it impossible for us to justify to our shareholders any further financial participation in the development of the STP project," he said.

# Raft Race a Great Success



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

The colourful flotilla featured an impressive array of rafts including NRG's very own recreation of the CW Gantry Crane.

Despite finishing out of the major prizes the NRG crew did manage to win the "Titanic Award" and can be well pleased with their efforts.

Thanks to the crew of Brad Zillman, Ryan Fawzi, Ryan Pickles, Jon Redshaw, Scott Leinster, Dale Arit, Sam Leschniok and Luke Critchley who spent many hours preparing the raft for the event.

The huge crowd lining the banks of Auckland Creek were treated to some riotous fun with many rafts sporting wacky fancy dress costumes.

Major prize winners this year included Worley Parsons (Perpetual Trophy for Overall Best) Lee Lennon Floor Sanding (Most Creative Raft) and Yaralla Fitness Centre (Most Entertaining Crew).



## Unit 3 Overhaul Update

The Unit 3 overhaul currently underway continues the renewal projects that were completed on Unit 2 last year with two new projects, to refurbish three bunkers and replace turbine vibration protection equipment added. The overhaul started on 18 March and will continue until 27 May.

The infrastructure renewal projects being undertaken included

- Coal bunker refurbishment project
- Replacement of the turbine vibration equipment.
- Ash hopper replacement
- Mid-life overhauls of the steam driven feed pump turbine
- Replacement of the economiser to air heater round flue duct insulation and cladding.
- Replacement of air heater insulation and cladding.
- Replacement of the wettracks instrumentation
- Replacement of the dissimilar metal welds on the high temperature superheater outlet header
- The installation of two new access door at the 36 metre drop and above the ash hopper on the southern side of the boiler.
- Replacement of the boiler house winch.

Manager Major Projects, Stephen Lewis said the \$8M investment on new and continuing infrastructure projects, combined with a quality general overhaul valued at \$7M, will hopefully ensure the continued reliability of the units that we have witnessed over the past three years.

The following is a summary of some of the infrastructure renewal projects status.

The overhaul of the steam driven feed pump turbine is being undertaken by Siemens. On Unit 3 the feed pump turbine required minimal work as compared to Unit



The boiler feed pump rotor ready for inspections.

2 which required extensive turbine blade replacements.

The economiser to air heater duct and air heater recladding is being undertaken by CBH. The round duct is a continuing project from last year and will occur on all overhauls for the next 7 years. The air heater recladding work is much larger than previously completed on Unit 2. The full air heater is being reclad over two overhauls as it is not practical to complete in one overhaul.



The round flue duct cladding project access scaffold.

This overhaul is also the first under a new contract with CBH for the boiler pressure parts overhaul. The initial contract is for four years to cover a complete rotation of all units and is designed to further strengthen the relationship between NRG and CBH as the demand for services increases over the coming years in the region. The work on this overhaul includes replacing the welds of the dissimilar metals between the high temperature superheater outlet header stubs and the steam delivery tubes. New access doors have also been installed along with repairs to damaged tubes and the replacement of protective shields.



The new boiler access door.

The replacement of Unit 3 ash hopper is again being undertaken by Walz Construction while Walz Maintenance is undertaking a first on this overhaul. The Walz maintenance team are undertaking the refurbishment of the three coal bunkers (Unit 3 D,E, and F). The team is removing sections of the bunkers that have corroded and replacing them with new sections.



The new Unit 3 ash hopper arrives.

The work has significant manual handling issues as the bunkers were installed very early in the construction process so accessing the bunkers for repairs is all by temporary access platforms. The replacement plates are transported by trolley to a staging area before being lowered between beams onto the temporary access platforms. The plates are then rigged into position for welding.

Finally the replacement of the boiler house winch and new additional platform at level 4 of the boiler has changed the risk when moving access equipment up to the boiler.



The new winching area installed for the overhaul.

“The new deck has made a world of difference. The equipment can now be landed on a platform directly without having to bring it in under a platform from the level above,” Stephen said.

## Greg Hangs up the Boots after 40 Years in the Industry

Unit Controller Greg Nugent has decided to hang up boots after a very creditable 40 years in the electricity industry. Greg took time out to reflect on his working life.

I was born in 1945 and started primary school at North Bundaberg State School. I remember dozens of canecutters riding home on their push bikes at sun set with their lunch bags made from a sugar bag slung across their shoulder and the whites of their eyes, the rest covered in soot from the burnt cane. My boyhood hero was Bert Hinkler and I attended the same school as he did. We lived a few blocks down the road from his mother's house.

I completed my primary school at Thangool where my father accepted a job at the Thangool Aerodrome as a Senior Groundsman. It was a great time seeing all the different types of planes dropping in and out as well as free trips on the odd crop duster.

After finishing high school at Monto I started a five year apprenticeship as a fitter and turner at a steel fabrication works in Monto. After three years I transferred to the Thiess, Peabody Mitsui mine at Moura, finishing my apprenticeship on heavy machinery. I then went overseas for a few years working as a timber cutter outside Salzburg and Linz in Austria. I used to work 14-20

days straight and then take the rest of the month off to travel across to neighbouring countries. By a twist of fate I ended up in Prague (Czechoslovakia) on the eve of the first anniversary of the Russian takeover. I remember the tanks, tear gas, baton charges, shootings and the sound of cobble stones bouncing off armour and I still have my favourite paper weight, a cobble stone from a pile in Wenceslas Square.

I met my future wife when her and some friends were having car trouble on a dusty road in central Greece. After moving back to Australia we had twins, a son and a daughter. I started work as a mechanical fitter at the CREB Callide Super Power Station where I seemed to inherit the coal plant and the mills. I came back from the coal plant one day covered in coal dust and after seeing the operators in their white overalls I decided it was time for a career change.

I transferred to GPS in 1979 as an Auxiliary Plant Attendant seeing the commissioning of Units 5 and 6. I was promoted to a Unit Controller in 1985 and later as an act up PPC. I decided a long time ago that I would retire at 65 provided I could still walk up and down a boiler. I have always enjoyed working at the station. You can't beat the smell of burning coal and the steam from a good blow down.



Greg is well known for his collection of militaria.

I am planning to continue living at Tannum for the time being. I still enjoy collecting and love going to swap meetings, antique shows and militaria fairs. Occasionally at a show you can still pick up something that you know you are the only kid on the block to have. It's always great to pick up something like a SRD 1.5 gallon rum jar that came from the trenches. I have been a member of the Arms Collector Guild of Queensland since 1974.

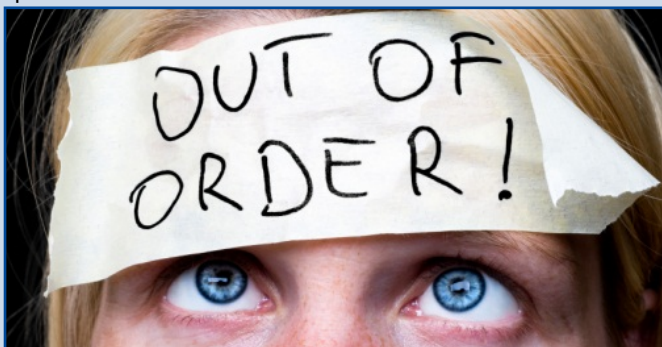
In the future I am planning to travel overseas. Currently I am helping out at the Anglican Opp shop at Boyne Island and the one ton truck gets a good workout from time to time. Next year I will also be helping out at the Hub Community Centre in Gladstone.

## The Distracted Brain

People everywhere seem to be experiencing an epidemic of overwhelm at work. There are potentially three contributing factors to this.

Firstly, it's the amount of information we now process, which our brain may not be used to. Recently it has been suggested that The New York Times on Sunday contains more information than the average 18th century French Nobleman learned in his lifetime (now, if only I could remember where I read that...).

Secondly, we have all these new technologies which are very good at distracting us, which our human habits have not caught up to.



Finally, many of us have challenges relating to work, relationships, time, finances, health (to name but a few) that are competing for the brain's air-time.

Overall, it's clear to see how distractions are not just frustrating, they can also be exhausting. By the time you get back to where you were, your ability to stay focused goes down even further. The result could be a big mistake on an important task. Distractions can also cause you to forget good ideas, miss conversations, and lose valuable insights. Having a great idea and not being able to remember it can be annoying, like an itch you can't scratch, yet another distraction to manage!

So, in order to stay in control of your environment, be sure to focus your 7 units on your surroundings and the task at hand, seek and identify potential hazards, and respond consciously to unexpected situations.

Asking the question "What's Important Now?" can assist in avoiding distractions as it switches your brain on to the present moment.

Try asking this question once a day for the purpose of staying focused at work and staying safe for your Personal Big5.

Peter Kennedy – Sentis Psychologist

## Weld Bays Refurbished

The maintenance weld bays are currently undergoing a major refurbishment which will improve the safety and efficiency of the bays.

The first weld bay to be refurbished is currently being used by pressure welder John Hall.

Superintendent Auxiliaries, Mark Bearham said a range of initiatives had been instigated by the workgroup employees aimed at improving the way they work and the weld bay environment.

“John was very active in initiating and implementing new measures to help improve the weld bays and I am pleased that we have been able to support John to put these initiatives into place,” Mark said.

Following the successful refurbishment of John’s weld bay, the Units Mechanical and Fuel workgroups have decided to continue the project and refurbish the remaining weld bays.

Units Mechanical Superintendent, Guy Ayscough said the most significant benefit of the enclosures was the hard physical barrier between the work environment and the pedestrians walking past and the fact that they no longer had to rely on welding curtains to obtain that separation.



Brad Zillman checks out one of the new refurbished weld bays.

“During the current shutdown the noise levels can become quite high around the weld bay and the acoustic covers have provided a small reduction in these levels,” Guy said.

Other major improvement to the bays include:

- The installation of solid doors with locks to prevent the movement of employees in and out of the bay while work is being undertaken;
- Movable fans and lighting to help improve the general working conditions;
- Additional power points located closer to the work benches.

“During the process of refurbishing there was also an opportunity to relocate a lot of accumulated items around work benches and cupboards which has also helped to improve the safety of the bays.”

“Our aim was to get all the bays to a workable level prior to the start of Unit 3 overhaul. With the assistance of Gladstone Insulation (who manufactured the enclosures) and our boilermaking teams we have been able to complete the installation of the remaining weld bays,” Guy said.

## Getting Personal with Operator Trainee Michael Banks



**In the nine months you have worked at the station what’s been your impression of the plant so far?**

For its age the plant is very tidy and neat and in good condition.

**What have you enjoyed about the Operator Traineeship?**

I have enjoyed learning new skills and the quality of the training. I also like coming home early enough to take the kids out for a walk with the dog or to play at the park.

**How have you found working with the other employees at the station?**

I have found the people to be helpful and friendly.

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

I completed an electrical apprenticeship at QAL and spent an additional two years working in the boiler house section as a tradesperson. I then spent two years as an electrician at the shale oil plant and four years at Yarwun one. After this I transferred to Yarwun two spending two years as an electrician on construction before seeing the light and coming to NRG.

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

I knew a lot of current and past employees and they all seemed to like working for NRG. With a young family I was looking for a job that suited our family’s lifestyle and that was a bit more stable than chasing the construction game.

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

I enjoy doing anything that is active and outdoors, particularly camping with the family at the Oaks. I also enjoy cycling and playing tennis.

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

Gladstone is not too big, the people are friendly and most of our family live here.

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

I was born in Bankstown hospital in Sydney (suits my last name nicely) and did my high schooling at Campbelltown High, Miriam Vale High and Toolooa High.

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

I have more than enough females in the house to keep me in line with my wife Nicole and my two daughters Emily aged two and Katrina aged eight months.

**When I was a child I wanted to be...** A pilot in the air force.

**At home I like to cook...** Anything that tastes yummy - Italian food, stir fries, home made pies.

**A song that means a lot to me is...** Khe Sanh by Cold Chisel.

**The hardest thing I’ve ever done was...** Getting a red belt for a form of Indonesian Martial Arts.

### Service Register – May 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 May.

	26 years	Kris Neaton Brian Courtney
34 years	Ron Anderson Allan Timm	25 years Graham Wright
29 years	Jukka Heikkinen	24 years Kylie Parker
28 years	John Illingsworth	22 years Ray Que

## Archie's off around Australia

Station Electrical plant services employee, Archie Lowe won't be thinking too much about work over the next seven months after heading off for the trip of a lifetime around Australia.

Archie and his partner Janet Walter have been planning the trip for the past 12 months and have recently sold off the campervan in preference for an 18.5 foot caravan.

"In previous trips we have used the camper trailer to explore Kakadu National Park and Lake Eyre but this time round we thought we'd travel with a bit more comfort. We are hoping to see a lot more of Western Australia, particularly the Kimberley region and the areas south of Perth," Archie said.

For Archie and Janet the trip is also about having the opportunity to catch up with family and friends.

"We're planning on visiting Janet's sister at their cattle property in the Northern Territory as well as catching with Neil Pease in Darwin and Kev Peagam at Port Headland. My son and his partner are also working at the Kooljaman Resort at Cape Leveque north of Broome so it will be great to see them as well," he added.

We are sure Archie will have plenty of stories to share with Gladrag readers when he returns from his around Australian sojourn in time for the 25 year dinner in early October.

And just to make you feel like you need a holiday when he returns Archie will be heading off to Weipa for a couple of weeks to do some fishing with Bob Pirie and Steve Lund.

At least we know he will be well rested when he returns to work in November.



Archie and Janet are planning to do a lot of fishing on their around Australia holiday.

## 25 Years for Paul Andrewartha

Plant services employee Paul Andrewartha started his career as an apprentice carpenter, with Grayson Construction, but it would be 17 years later before he was able to complete his trade working in the GPS building trades crew.



Paul enjoys working outdoors in the gardens.

"GPS were very supportive at the time and it was great to get support from our HR people and work with blokes like Graham Clarke and Mick Palmer and Grant Partridge," Paul said.

During his time as an apprentice Paul did get the chance however to work in a number of tropical paradises including Heron, Dunk and Lindeman Islands.

Starting at GPS in 1986 as a cleaner in the ash plant workshops Paul worked under a succession of supervisors including Ray Carlos, Dave Brown, John Norris and Lindsay Prizeman. He spent more than 20 years as a boiler cleaner before re-joining John Norris in the site services group in 2007.

"I needed a change and working outdoors in the gardens and cutting the grass has been a great move for me," Paul said.

Outside of work Paul likes to spend most of his spare time renovating his property at Darts Creek (near Mt Larcom) as well as working on various woodworking projects. He is also an active member of the Sporting Shooters Association national body.

## Lorna Accepts 25 Year Watch for Kelvin

Lorna Beyers and her children Dean and Miranda recently visited GPS to accept a 25 year watch for their late husband and father Kelvin Beyers.

Kelvin passed away in June 2006 after completing nearly 25 years in the electricity industry.

Superintendent Station Electrical, Russell Hunt was pleased to be able to present Dean with the watch in memory of his father.



Russell was happy to present a 25 year watch to the Beyers family in memory of Kelvin.

# Where are they now? – Chris Sedgwick

## What period did you work at GPS?

I started during the very wet season in January 1978 through to January 2001. During that time I also had two years on secondment to the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority.

## Tell us about your roles at the station.

I had a variety of paraprofessional roles in the Control Systems area as Technician, Senior Technician, Supervisor and Technical Specialist. I also acted in the role of Maintenance Superintendent and Project Manager.

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

I have a lot of good memories of life in Gladstone and at GPS. We had a very active work and social life. I remember the social events on site, the Rec Club events in the canteen and catching prawns in the CW trash screens. (Does this still happen?) I remember the early days of the station when the technicians worked during the day on maintenance activities and then during the evening to redesign, install and commission the coal plant. The station had to bunker up for the cutover as the plant was out of service for a few hours. During this period, late at night, we had just cut all the cables from the alarm cabinet when the Station Manager Sid Durrington came and commented "I hope you people know what you are doing." Fortunately we did.

I enjoyed working with all the people, but a few that really influenced me were Sid Durrington, Don Kerr, Jim Sjoberg, Paul Borchartd, Ken Roy, Alan Godfrey, Darryl Bond and Steve Thefs.

## What did you enjoy about living in Gladstone?

Living in Gladstone was perhaps the most important part of our life. Wendy and I had our three children there, and in a town that



was growing with good community spirit, we involved ourselves in the schools, church, scouts, sailing club, volunteer marine rescue and Institute of Engineers. I think having a boat also made for a good life.

## What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

Since leaving we have settled into Biloela and have built a new house with me as owner builder completing the extensions. I left GPS on Friday and commenced work at Callide Power Station on the Monday as a Control System Technician and have remained in the role. I enjoy the role which keeps me fit and offers a stimulating environment.

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

I try to keep up with what is happening at GPS through occasional telephone

conversations and bumping into people when shopping in Gladstone, Rockhampton or Bundaberg. There are a number of ex Callide people at GPS and ex GPS people at Callide and this helps me keep up to date. I was recently invited to Malcolm and Sue's Pollock's place to catch up with Mike and Nancy Whalen.

## What do you enjoy about living in Biloela?

Biloela is a growing town that has all the amenities and shops, all within short walking distance from home. Also the bus to and from work picks me up and drops me off at my front gate.

## Tell us a little bit about your family?

Wendy and I are grandparents twice over. Wendy is teaching Year two at the Biloela State School. Eldest son Carl is a dad and a professional engineer. He is studying for a PhD at QUT and has his own companies. Peter is an officer on ships between North Western Australia and South East Asia while Anna is a mum studying for her degree in physiotherapy.

## Aeropower Carry out Insulator Washing



Aeropower was recently engaged to undertake maintenance work on Powerlink's assets near the Gladstone Power Station.

As well as maintenance work, Aeropower was also engaged to undertake inspections and insulator washing on Powerlink's annual high voltage transmission lines (see photo at the side).

The helicopter patrols total more than 1000 hours of flying time each year.

## Gold Lotto Win

It was high fives all round for a group of 13 NRG electricians and technicians and one Rexel employee who took out first prize (\$1,109,604) in the Gold Lotto last month.

A spokesman said the group had been playing a shared Saturday Gold Lotto entry for the past 18 months.