

Ben Takes out Major GAGAL Award

Hard work and dedication have paid off for NRG warehouse trainee, Ben Cant after he was presented with two major awards at the Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Limited (GAGAL) awards night held at the PCYC last month.

Ben won the overall Trainee of the Year Award as well as Warehouse Trainee of the Year Award. The awards recognise Ben's dedication to his traineeship and his outstanding overall performance.

Ben was presented with a certificate, trophy and a gift for his efforts.

Ben said he was excited to win the award and looking forward to completing his Certificate III in Warehousing next year.

Since starting in July last year Ben has been busy learning about the issuing, receiving and manual handling of goods as well as gaining his certificates in forklift, senior first aid and dogging. He is also keen to spend time in cataloguing and purchasing.

Superintendent Procurement Services, Garry Coleborn said Ben had shown himself to be an enthusiastic, capable and motivated employee.

"Ben's safety, teamwork, problem solving and willingness to learn have been exemplary and he is a deserving recipient of the award," Garry said.

Meanwhile former NRG administrative trainee Kyra Bell who completed her traineeship earlier this year was awarded the Administrative Trainee of the Year Award.

Congratulations to Ben and Kyra on their outstanding achievement.

Ben proudly displays the trophy and certificate won at the recent GAGAL awards night.



New Graduates

Manager Technical Services, Ben Hayden and Superintendent, Health, Environment and Community, Paul Vanderlist were among 45 graduates to don the cap and gown at the 13th CQUniversity graduation ceremony held at the Entertainment Centre last month.

Ben graduated with a Masters of Engineering – Power Generation while Paul completed a Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety.

For Ben completing his Masters was a natural extension of his current learning as



For Ben completing his Masters studies was a natural extension of his learning as an engineer.

an engineer and applying it to the power generation sector.

"I learnt about areas I hadn't been involved in previously such as material handling and regulation of safety compliance and I was able to contribute to the learnings of other new engineers through sharing my own experiences," Ben said.

Ben praised current General Manager Gladstone Operations, Glen Schumacher who was instrumental in setting up the post graduate program which was a collaborative arrangement between Tarong, Stanwell, CS Energy and CQUniversity, QUT and UQ.

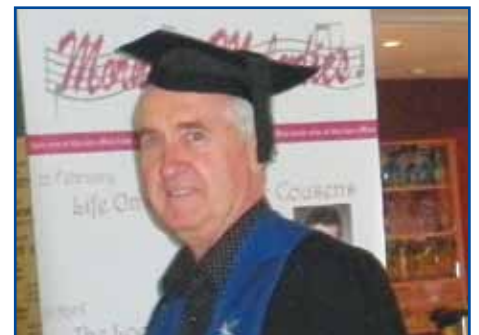
"Shoey was one of the first to graduate from the course and since then quite a number of our own engineers and some operators are in the process of completing the course," Ben said.

Fellow graduate Paul Vanderlist said his Post Graduate Diploma had helped him gain a better understanding of recent changes happening in safety.

"I have always been interested in people's behaviour and their attitudes towards

safety and how the safety mindset is developed in an organisation. The course has helped me gain a greater awareness of safety techniques including the importance of good communication and training and learning how to develop sound safety behaviours," Paul said.

While committing to a study routine was a personal challenge, Paul was appreciative of the new modes of learning utilising computer software packages and greater interaction with other students and university staff.



Paul has gained a greater awareness of safety through his recent studies.

From Shoey's Desk

Coal – Keeping The Lights On

Dear Folks

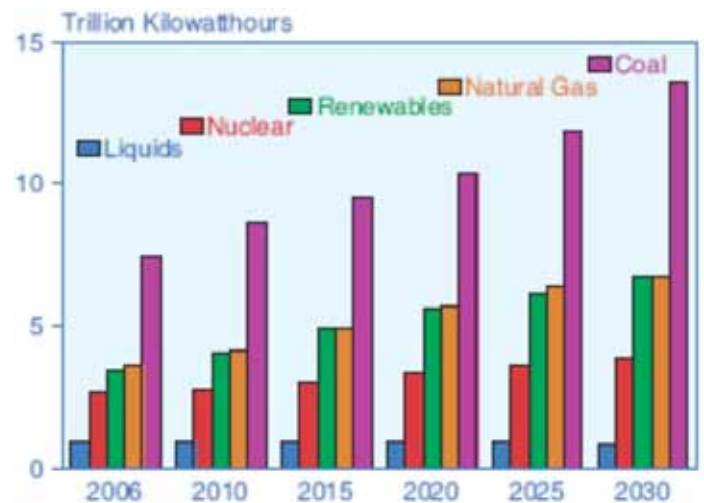
With all of the debates going on regarding a Carbon Tax, the importance of coal in keeping our lights on seems to be getting a bit lost. I think the reality is that we do have to find ways of reducing the potential effects of all of the fuels we use in our energy hungry world. But, the fact remains that coal is incredibly important to the generation of electricity here in Australia. About 74% of our electricity is generated from burning coal and coal is and will remain a very important source of energy around the world for the foreseeable future. The graph below shows the projection for what fuels will be used for electricity generation up until 2030. Indeed, the role of nuclear energy in the future is now under a cloud following the very sad events in Japan recently. So, perhaps coal will become more important in the future.

There are some people who hold the view that we should just stop using coal. Where would that leave us? In Canada the Province (similar to one of our States) of Ontario decided in 2002 to shut down all of their coal fired power stations and rely on nuclear, hydro and renewable electricity generation. It has been reported that Ontario electricity prices are expected to rise 14% this summer in Canada and there are forecasts that the increases may in the end be as high as 46% in the near future. Now clearly there will be a lot of other issues involved in what is happening in Ontario but, there is still a lesson that we cannot afford to “throw the baby out with the bath water.”

So, where does that leave us? At GPS we can make a difference by making sure our station runs in the most efficient way we can. All of us also have a role in understanding the issues that are being discussed and have our say.

Here at NRG we are trying to find ways that we can help find solutions to the challenges that we in the electricity industry are

facing, particularly those of us who use coal as a fuel source. This is an incredibly important issue not only for us working at GPS but for all of us who want our lights to stay on!



Forecast Energy World Electricity Generation By Fuel

GPS – Our Future

Regards
SHOEY
Glenn Schumacher
GENERAL MANAGER

Welcome Denise Bedzor



Denise enjoys taking a proactive approach to health and wellness.

New Converge counsellor Denise Bedzor is enjoying getting to know employees on site. Denise has been ‘doing the rounds’ at GPS for the past three months.

Raised in New Zealand, Denise has lived in Gladstone for 27 years and has a strong background in nursing and counselling.

“I spent many years in the Gladstone Hospital but found I wanted to help people in a different way. I have been working with Converge for the past 10 months and enjoy taking a proactive approach to health and wellness issues,” Denise said.

After completing her Diploma in Counselling Denise spent time working mainly with women and young people in the Women’s Health Centre. Since then she has developed a keen interest in

men’s health and helping men develop self awareness and recognising their strengths.

Denise is currently running informal toolbox sessions on site to help employees think about stress and work life balance. If your workgroup is interested please contact Denise when she is on site.

Denise visits GPS each Wednesday from 7.30am to 1.30pm and her contact number is 1800 337 068. Employees can also make appointments outside these times.

Converge provides a free service to employees and immediate families as well as counselling for individuals, couples and teenagers in a variety of life issues.

EcoFest Draws Huge Crowd

The thirteenth annual EcoFest on Sunday 5 June was a great success with around 7,000 visitors flocking to the Tondoon Botanic Gardens. The day provided an ideal opportunity to promote and celebrate environmental sustainability as part of World Environment Day.

The EcoFest celebrations kicked off on the Saturday night with 17 GPS employees attending the EcoFest "Under the Stars" Sponsors Dinner with guest presenter Ranger Tim and a showcasing of the Greenscenes Environmental Films.

This year's theme was "Forests: Nature at Your service." NRG's display featured information on environmental initiatives and many interactive activities for the children. The children were able to make their very own power station from a cardboard template, catch a lure or plastic prawn and paint a picture of the power station. Tomato plants partially grown in flyash and seed sticks of carrots, lettuce and cauliflower proved popular giveaways for the adults.

NRG was one of 80 businesses and community organisations who set up and manned environmental displays on the day. Some popular special guests were Ranger Frank Manthey and his bilbies, Tina Janssen educating the crowd on Bridled Naitailed Wallabies and Tony Harrison, the Gold Coast snake man.

The day would not have been a success with out employee volunteers and special thanks must go to our team of Paul Vanderlist, Dave Greinke, Allison Hutton, George Bennetts, Martin Thomas, Ben Hayden, Sandy Hunt, Cherie Cavanagh, David Lahey, Natalie Hurst, Jay Wilson, Lynda Casey, Steve Heit, Brad Greer, Kev Ryan, Rob Wemyss, John Leinster and Gary Macnamara who helped organise and man the display.



Apprentices Look Forward to the Future

NRG's nine first year apprentices have successfully taken their first steps towards a rewarding career by completing their first three month probationary period.

NRG General Manager Gladstone Operations Glenn "Shoey" Schumacher congratulated the group on achieving the first milestone of their careers.

"The transition from youth into adulthood is an important one and given the current skills shortages you are in the right place at the right time."

"Your futures are looking very bright but it is up to make the best of your opportunities if you are to have a very satisfying and rewarding career."

Shoey urged the group to set themselves a high standard and to apply the safety tools and disciplines learnt at NRG throughout their working life.

"NRG provides an excellent training framework for training apprentices and you are building a good foundation for the future. It's now up to each of you to seize this opportunity," he said.

The group were encouraged to seek assistance from their superintendents and mentors if they had any personal concerns during their apprenticeship.

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



Dylan Stitt and his dad Kevin caught up with Russell Hunt at the apprentice function.



Proud parents Wayne and Cathy Adams took time out to have a photo with their son Jayden at the apprentice function.

New Operators Come on Board

New Operators Graeme Clark, Michael Redshaw and Scott McKay are looking forward to a long career at NRG following the completion of their training at the end of the year.

Prior to joining NRG in April this year the trio had completed all their boiler and turbine qualifications through Workplace Health and Safety.

NRG Training and Development Officer, Alan O'Rourke said each of the trainees would spend six months learning about the different areas of plant before moving onto shift at the end of October. They would then move onto a permanent shift roster as qualified Unit Controllers in January next year.

"This is the twelfth intake of new trainees and they have all been a pleasure to teach with their determination and persistence. It's certainly made my job easier," Alan said.

Former Rio Tinto Yarwun employee Graeme Clark said he was keen to take on the position of Unit Controller after hearing good reports from people who had worked at the station.

"I worked for a total of seven years at Rio Yarwun, four years operating the boilers and calciners and three years in the training role (mainly boilers) and spoke to a number of people here before deciding to apply. The training provided has been excellent and conducted in a relaxed atmosphere," Graeme said.

Fellow trainee Michael Redshaw spent 13 years in the sugar industry and 17 years at QAL as a supervisor and control room operator before coming to NRG.

"I've enjoyed learning about all the new plant and will have a good knowledge of the equipment, so that when I get into the control room I can hit the floor running. The camaraderie between the crews is excellent and they have been only too willing to share their knowledge." Michael said.

With 11 years experience as a mechanical fitter/turner, chemical plant operator and Unit operator at Callide Power Station Scott McKay brings a lot of knowledge to his new role as an operator trainee.

Scott has been living at Tannum for the past few years and the opportunity to move closer to home was a major factor in him wanting to take up the traineeship.

"I am still familiarising myself with the new plant and it's been good to be able to draw upon other people's experiences and skills," Scott said.



Michael, Graham and Scott are looking forward to completing their training as Unit Controllers.

Demineralised Water Plant Refurbishment Project

Work has begun on refurbishing the Demineralised Water Plants at Gladstone Power Station.

Mechanical Project Engineer Ross McKenzie said the plants have had no significant upgrades, with the exception of the controls in 1996/97, since they were installed in early 1970's.

"In recent years the reliability of the plants has begun to drop so we conducted a Value Engineering (VE study) to determine the most effective way to supply the station with demineralised water for boiler makeup," Ross said.

The VE study considered building new plants, changing technologies and refurbishing the existing plants and the resulting outcome was that the existing two plants would be refurbished rather than replaced.

In 2010, Aurecon was engaged to conduct a condition assessment of Units 1-4 and 5-6 Demin Plants. The findings revealed that the area was suffering from severe chemical corrosion and this formed the basis for the refurbishment work.

Due to the size of the project along with ongoing engineering and drafting activities, the work was divided into two portions.

"We plan to run the chemical batching system works from June to September and the front end vessel pipework will start in October and go through until 2012," Ross said.

Walz Maintenance has been awarded the contract for the chemical batching system works, which includes a full replacement of pipework and selected tanks which have been exposed to highly concentrated amounts of sulphuric acid and caustic.

"It is important that we take the necessary precautions to ensure that the risk of being exposed to these harmful chemicals during replacement is minimised," Ross said.

Although the existing Demin Plant process remains the same, the following improvements will be made:

- New radar level detectors will be fitted to measuring tanks to replace the existing ball float design.
- Stainless steel piping will be installed in the sulphuric acid batching system replacing the existing carbon steel piping to minimise the formation of ferrous sulphate which in turn causes system fouling and blockages.
- Ceramic coatings will be applied to the internal surface of measuring tanks to protect against acid attack.
- New dilution tanks will be fabricated from austenitic stainless steel (904L) to protect against acid attack.
- Air agitation on acid dilution tanks will be automated.
- New isolation valves and actuators will be installed to improve reliability.

The front end vessel pipework scope includes a full replacement of process vessel pipework from rubber lined carbon steel to stainless steel. Remediation of concrete slabs, footings and effluent pits also forms a major part of the works.

"The Demin Plants are required to be fully operational during the refurbishment project, so scheduling the work around operational requirements and routine maintenance activities will be challenging," Ross said.



Ross inspects part of the demin plant which is being refurbished.

Getting Personal with Property Services Officer Ben Patchett

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

I've really enjoyed it, the people have been great, the work is interesting and it's a different work environment to what I'm used to so it's all new and interesting.

What have you enjoyed about new role?

My role is quite varied, I won't get bored and the team I work with work well together.



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

Everyone has been really friendly and helpful.

Tell us about your previous roles and experience.

I completed an apprenticeship as a painter and decorator. After a few years I wanted something a little more stable and found myself working in a paint shop for what seemed like a lifetime.

What things attracted you to NRG and Gladstone Power Station?

I knew quite a few people who worked here and they all seemed happy. It seemed like a good place to work.

Tell us about some of your interests and hobbies.

I like fishing, photography, gardening and Muay Thai and I don't seem to spend enough time on any of them.

What do you like about living in Gladstone?

I like the fact that we've never been hit by

an earthquake or tsunami (at least not in my lifetime).

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

I was born in Gladstone and went to Central State School then South Primary, Toolooa High, TAFE then CQUniversity.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

There's not many of us and we are spread from CQ to New Zealand. My immediate family has just grown by one and I am wrapped.

When I was a child I wanted to be...

James Bond, a mad scientist or Han Solo.

As a kid I hated...

Cheese and tomato sandwiches.

Your mother or father always said to you...

This will hurt me more than it hurts you.

When I'm in front of the TV I like to eat ...

Atomic tomato flavoured chips.

Sign up for the Botanic to Bridge

It's that time of year again where we can dust off the old running or walking shoes and sign up for the second annual Gladstone Port Corporation's Botanic to Bridge to be held on Sunday 14 August.

Last year's event attracted over 4,500 people and this year registrations will be capped at 6,000 people.

Participants can compete in an 8km walk/run commencing at the Botanical gardens or a 3km walk/run commencing at Reg Tanna Park. Both courses finish at the Gladstone Marina.

Wellness Committee spokesperson Rob Wemyss said the event was a great family activity and he encouraged all employees to take up the challenge.

"Last year over 70 NRG employees including family members took part in the event and it would be great to see a good turnout again this year," Rob said.

NRG will once again fund registration for all NRG employees and their family members. The Wellness Committee has created two teams:

NRG Plodders – Team No. 46735 – 8km walk/run

NRG Dawdlers – Team No. 46068 – 3km walk/run

1. To register please go to the following link. http://registration.botanictobridge.com.au/registration/join_step1.cfm
2. Once registered go to the following link http://registration.botanictobridge.com.au/registration/registration_individual_step1_add.cfm
3. Select "Join an Existing Team" and type in either 46735 for the 8km or 46068 for the 3km.
4. Complete the details, accept the terms and conditions, then click "Finish". The next screen will go to the payment gateway. Just click cancel.
5. For children please apply the above process, however do not select to be part of the NRG team. The event organisers have requested that entrants under 18 register individually. Please forward your child's name and invoice number to Rob Wemyss and NRG will pay for the registration. Don't forget kids under four are free but do need to be registered. Children in prams do not require registration

Note that NRG will pay for all those who have registered by Friday 22 July 2011

If you're keen to have some fun and some healthy exercise then sign up now.



Rob takes up the challenge for this year's Botanic to Bridge.

Turbine Vibration Upgrade Project

The project to replace the turbine vibration monitors and upgrade the supervisory system is now underway. The existing Bently 3300 turbine vibration monitors will no longer be supported by the manufacturer and will be replaced with new 3500 series

monitors on all units over the next two years. The field cabling and sensors in the machines will remain.

Graduate Electrical Engineer, Glen Que said the current Bently system monitors the vibration and expansion of the main steam turbine and turbine feed pump and alarms or trips the machine if necessary.

"The new system will still perform these functions but has improved communications, displays, setup and diagnostic functions. During the recent Unit 3 overhaul the first part of the vibration monitoring upgrade project was completed," Glen said.

Downer electrical performed the installation work on the project and the units electrical technicians assisted with the system testing and commissioning.

"We weren't able to start work on the first unit until half way through the overhaul due to the delivery date of the new hardware. Despite the late start the installation work, testing and commissioning all went well and were finished on time," Glen added.

The vibration protection system can be a major source of unit trips and it is hoped that the upgrade will help improve reliability. The next stage in the project will be the upgrade of Unit 6 during the next overhaul in August this year.



Glen inspects the upgrade to Unit 3 Turbine and Feed Pump Vibration System.

Ainsley Dances up a Storm

Congratulations to Ainsley Childs (daughter of Keith) who recently competed in the Bundaberg Dance Eisteddfod representing her local Gladstone Ramptons Danzenergy Studio.

Ainsley danced in ten solo performances of varying styles and placed in eight of her performances. This achievement allowed her to enter the championship round in the Tap Dance, Ballet and Jazz sections. Ainsley was runner up in the Junior Tap Championship and also won the trophy for Most Promising Slow Modern Performer in the Bundaberg Dance Eisteddfod.

Ainsley will be competing again for Ramptons Danzenergy in this year's Gladstone Eisteddfod in September where NRG is one of the major sponsors. Ainsley is pictured holding her Bundaberg Dance Eisteddfod trophies.



Service Register – June 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 June.

- 39 years Clifford Heidenreich
- 34 years Dave Brown
- 32 years Gary Harmer
- 31 years John Mann, Peter Lamb
- 30 years Peter Van Nimwegen, Trevor Williams
- 29 years Russell Curtis, Ken Fischer, Phillip Hayne
- 27 years Col Johnston
- 26 years Edward Somerfield
- 18 years Jodie Patchett

Farewell Dick Garrett

Unit Controller, Dick Garrett was farewelled from the station on 22 May after a 35 year career at Gladstone Power Station.

Born and raised in Bundaberg, Dick completed a five year mechanical apprenticeship at the Milliquin Sugar Mill in 1965. Soon after completing his trade Dick moved to Mt Isa working initially as a diesel fitter. He then discovered power stations and moved to Mica creek to become a boiler plant operator.

After obtaining his second class boiler ticket Dick moved back to Bundaberg where he spent two years at the Fairymead Sugar Mill.

Looking to broaden his career Dick moved to Gladstone joining QAL as a boiler operator for two years where he gained his first class ticket before taking up the APA's role at GPS in October 1976.

Dick was inducted into the 25 Year Club in 2001 and was one of the first employees to achieve this milestone while working only at GPS.

"In the mid seventies there were very few operators on site and I was fortunate enough to be here at a time to see the construction and commissioning of all the units except for Unit 2," Dick recalled.

Dick became a Unit Controller in 1981 and has been acting up in the PPC role for the past 17 years.

Being involved in the commissioning of the Foxboro Control System during the mid 1990's was a major highlight for Dick during his time at the station.

Outside of work Dick has become well known for his aviation exploits having built a Jabiru aircraft and more recently an amphibious Super Petrel aircraft.

Dick and Jenny, his wife of 41 years, have embraced flying together in their sports plane. There have been many trips to beautiful locations like isolated beaches and resorts. They have travelled to many air-shows and fly-ins around the state and down as far as Narromine and Temora in NSW. Now with the amphibian, there are so many more places they can explore.

As well as his love of flying, Dick and Jenny are planning to do a lot more sailing, fishing and travelling in their retirement. They are also looking forward to holidaying in England and Central Europe in September.



Dick is planning to do a lot more flying in his Super Petrel aircraft in his retirement.



Around the Traps

Where are they now?

John James

What period did you work at the station?

I was employed with QEC/NRG from July 1989 to March 2000, but I actually started working at the power station as a contractor in 1978 for EDI on Units 5&6 Coal Handling Plant until 1980.

Tell us about your roles at the station.

I started at Gladstone in 1989 as a Control Systems Engineer, working in the Engineering Department under Bob Truscott. It was in this role that we started trying to get the Control System Upgrade project up and running, but with QEC having trouble with the control systems projects at Stanwell and Swanbank we were not allowed to go ahead with ours.

In 1995 under NRG, I became the Manager for Capital Projects working for Mike Skinner. Under NRG we finally signed up Foxboro for the Control System Upgrade which was a project I managed until moving into the Manager's role. From then on I managed all the refurbishment projects.

In 1997 I moved into the Manager Engineering role until 2000 when I was seconded from Gladstone to work at Killingholme Power Station (CCGT) in the UK.

What are your fondest memories of particular events and working with the employees at the station?

I have many great memories. I enjoyed working with Jeff Bowers on plant problems. Jeff started at Gladstone at the same time I did and we became good mates. Jeff, and other mechanical engineers would have a problem on the plant and would always blame the instrumentation and controls first, while I would always "debate" with them saying the problem was mechanical. We had many good discussions and loved to prove each other wrong.

I particularly enjoyed working with the Control System Project team with people such as Steve Lewis, Darryl Bond, Wes Machen and Mark Moran. We had a large, important, difficult job to do over many years but everyone worked well as a team to produce what I believe is the best Control System Upgrade ever. I remember doing the first test on the Foxboro equipment to Control Unit 2 Turbine Governor. Don Kerr was the Site Manager at the time and did not fully trust that we could do it (as a matter of fact not too many people, including some at Foxboro, believed we could do it). Don

allowed us to trial the design on Unit 2 after midnight when the system was quiet. I remember Russell Ivers, Wes and I trying to stay awake at 2am until the operators got the turbine on hydraulic governor and then the adrenalin rush as we connected in the new controls. Thank goodness it worked.

I also have fond memories of working with Malcolm Leinster and Larry Brushe on the Boiler Refurbishment, Malcolm and I putting the contract together with CBH and doing the project management with Larry where we tried some new project management techniques.



John and Bernadette enjoyed spending time in the United Kingdom when John was seconded to Killingholme Power Station.

What do you miss about living in Gladstone?

I miss the community spirit. Bernadette and I often reminisce about the great Rec Club events, like the family nights at the drive-in where the kids and us would have a sausage sizzle then sit in camp chairs to watch the movie.

What have you done since leaving Gladstone?

After working in the UK, I came home to find a new job as NRG was closing the Brisbane office. I was fortunate enough to get the Site Manager's role at Swanbank Power Station with CS Energy. I worked at Swanbank for

five years before moving into head office where I looked after the technical support, projects and procurement for CS Energy's power station.

Come 1 July I will be leaving CS Energy taking three months off travelling and relaxing before coming home and looking for work.

What do you enjoy about living in Brisbane?

I enjoy being close to our kids who are now all over 30 years old. Bernadette and I live on acreage half way between head office in the middle of Brisbane and Swanbank on the edge of Ipswich. Travelling to Swanbank every day only took 25 minutes but now I travel to Brisbane which takes over an hour every day and I often wonder why I left Gladstone which only took me 10 minutes to get to work. Living on acreage has allowed us to build a tennis court and as tennis is a passion of mine, we play very often.

What are your plans for the near future?

We are planning a three month holiday through Indonesia, China, Mongolia, Russia and the UK. After this I will start looking for a job, hopefully something to do with power stations.

Do you still keep up with any of the GPS employees?

Yes, but less often with the death of Jeff Bowers. Jeff, Marion, Bernadette and I used to go on many treks together. We had only just come back from a great walk in New Zealand when Jeff tragically died. I catch up with Darryl Bond, also with ex GPS employees such as Tom Richardson, Brian Green, Mark Moran and many others. I was fortunate to be invited back for Jeff Gibson's memorial service where I caught up with many old friends.

Tell us a little bit about your family?

Bernadette has just finished more study but still enjoys her piano. Barry, our eldest, is married and living in Toowoomba. He works in the environmental section of Ergon Energy. Chris, the middle child, is married and has just left Australia to work in the hotel industry in Queenstown, New Zealand. Vincent, the youngest, has taken a job in the coal seam gas industry stationed in Roma.