

## Production Team Introduce New Tool Lanyard

The Production Team has recently introduced a new tool lanyard for the operators to use.

Unit controller Greg Nugent said that the new lanyard was introduced following a spate of incidents involving dropped objects on site early in 2008.

"We realised that there was a possibility that operators' wheel spanners might fall out of their pockets when they were maintaining the units. We did not want one of these heavy tools to fall several levels," Greg said.

The idea for the new lanyard was first suggested by Greg, a Production Health and Safety Rep, during a site Workplace Health and Safety Committee meeting. Production Manager Joel Otley and Greg then started working on it.

"These lanyards were already on site and being used by some workgroups, but by adding velcro and modifying the wheel spanners slightly so the lanyard could be attached, we were able to reduce the hazard," Greg explained.

The project was also an opportunity to involve the Gladstone Engineering Skills Centre and one of our boilermaker apprentices. The students at the Skills Centre modified some of the wheel spanners while third year boilermaker Luke Halliwell did an excellent job in modifying a large number of the wheel spanners by himself. John Marxsen explained that the Skills Centre was able to be involved as part of our industry pledge commitments.

Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Community, George Bennetts was pleased with the safety initiative.

"This is proactive safety, identifying a hazard before it becomes a real incident with many people across site coming together to put preventive actions in place," he said.



Greg Nugent came up with the idea for a modified safety lanyard.

## Evacuation Drill a Success

On Friday 19 December the site wide evacuation alarm was activated at the station with everyone stepping out briskly to participate in a planned drill.



Station employees check in at Evacuation Point 1

Specialist Safety Systems, Allison Hutton said it was a safety requirement to conduct annual evacuation drills.

"This drill was announced well in advance so most people on site were aware of it. The purpose was to give people a chance to check out what they needed to do should a real evacuation occur in the future. There are a lot of new starters on site and it is important give people as much opportunity to learn what is required. The speed and efficiency on the day was very impressive with the whole exercise being completed within 20 minutes," Allison said.

Special thanks go to the Emergency Response Team and Security who coordinated the efforts of accounting for all the people on site. Following the drill several debriefs with key groups were conducted and several amendments have been suggested.

"We will have some improvements to make before the next one and not all future evacuations will be announced in advance," Allison said.

**From Shoey's Desk**

**Dear Folks**

By now the New Year feeling has well and truly passed for most of us. But, it is a new year with new challenges. One of those key challenges for all of us right across GPS is how do we improve our safety. In 2008 we had 13 reportable injuries at GPS. Reportable injuries are Medical Treatments and Lost Time Injuries. Our target should be zero! Now I know many people still hold the view that is just a management fantasy and will say "accidents just happen". Well, there are many organisations around the world that have proven that zero injuries is a realistic target. Anyway, from my way of looking at the issue I think that accepting a target of anything other than zero means that I am willing to accept that some of you will come to work at GPS and will get hurt. That just does not seem a reasonable thing to accept!

we should. ZIP is a tool that we can use. In 2008 we ran a ZIP pilot program to see if it would fit GPS and the majority assessment of those who took place is that it offers benefits to GPS. Thus, we are starting to plan to introduce ZIP to GPS.



I feel this is an important step if we are to stop hurting people at GPS and remember that safety is an issue which effects not only all of us who work here at GPS but also our Families at home. If we get hurt our Families suffer as well. So, let's see what we can do about this in 2009.

Safety Culture Model



**GPS OUR FUTURE**

Regards

**SHOEY**  
Glenn Schumacher  
General Manager

**Farewell John Hunter**

**U**nit Controller John Hunter was farewelled from the station on 5 January after a 35 year career in the electricity industry.

Systems upgrade. Anyone wishing to contact John can reach him on his email at [jgh1947@bigpond.com.au](mailto:jgh1947@bigpond.com.au).

In his retirement John said he was planning to spend more time working on his boat. A trip around Australia is also high on the agenda in the future.



*John Hunter accepts a farewell gift from Shift Superintendent, Wayne Franks.*

John joined the industry in 1973 at Kareeya Power Station working as an electrician. After eight months he was appointed to an operator's position. He joined Collinsville Power Station in 1975 as an APA and transferred to GPS in 1978.

During his time at GPS John had assisted on the burner front upgrade and worked as an Isolations Officer on the Control



Spending more time with friends and family, getting healthy and losing weight, and quitting smoking are three of the most common new year's resolutions in Australia. While we all enter our resolutions with the best of intentions, few of us seem to be able to get past Australia day without slipping up, let alone make it through the whole year!

So why is it so hard to stick to our resolutions and how can we do better?

Have a realistic plan - Be realistic about what you want to achieve and how you can do it. Too many people give up altogether when they can't stick to over-the-top plans.

Be accountable - Ask a couple of people you trust to keep you accountable to your resolution. It is easier to motivate yourself to stick to a resolution if someone is checking how you are going.

Share the journey - Find someone who has a similar resolution and work on it together. Keeping a resolution is much easier if you can make it a social activity.

No matter how hard we try some resolutions seem impossible to stick to. This is ok if the resolution is something trivial, but if they concern health or relationships keeping the resolution takes on a whole new significance.

If you would like to arrange an appointment to speak with a counsellor about goal setting and resolutions, we would welcome your call. You can reach us anytime and toll free on 1800 337 068.

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## Emergency Response Team Enjoy Hanging Around

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) members were put through their paces during a training session on site in December.

Five of the ERT members participated in a Vertical Rescue exercise at Transfer Tower T10 conducted by Highpoint Industries. The

group are required to keep current a variety of skills including rope rescue, operating breathing apparatus and first aid.

Regular training is conducted through formal courses as well as weekly on site practice. Our roving reporter was fortunate enough to get some photos of the team in action.



Rescue team members Andrew Sibley and Kev Peagam coming down to earth



Rescue team members watch as Rob Stringer from Highpoint Industries lowers himself to the ground.

## Getting Personal with Superintendent Accounting Services Cherie Cavanagh

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

The accounting systems are great and the people are even better. All the people I have come across are welcoming and friendly.

***What have you enjoyed about your new role?***

I've enjoyed the variety of tasks and the people. You never know what the next day is going to bring.

***How have you found working with the other employees in your team?***

They are all very friendly and enjoyable. It is a pleasure to come to work every day.

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

I've worked in Public Practice (essentially preparing tax returns and tax planning for a variety of individuals and entities) at Fellowes and Partners here in Gladstone for six years. Following that I moved to industry working as an accountant for McCosker Contracting for four years. Both were challenging roles which have offered me a broad range of knowledge and experience.

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

I've always wanted to work for a large organisation in industry. I was also attracted to the opportunity of working with a team of accountants who have a long history with the company and loads of knowledge to share.

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

I play touch football and love reading books when I get time.

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

It's not too big and not too small. There is a friendly atmosphere and I love the marina and the closeness to the beach.

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

I was born in Brisbane and raised in Springsure – small town country girl.

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

I've been happily married for eight years and have two beautiful children, Jet aged seven and Lara aged two. I am also very lucky because my parents just moved to Boyne Island from Springsure to be closer

to us. It has been great having them close by.

***Someone who makes me laugh is.....***

My son Jet – he is so full of life and is a bit of a clown at times.

***My worst fashion moment was....***

When I started at the power station. I am not used to wearing men's clothes!!!, especially after coming from Public Practice.

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

A chef, however I soon realised this involved long hours and working at night.

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

Directions – I still get lost around the administration building here at GPS.



## Needy to Benefit from Charities Fund Donations

The Gladstone Community Charities Fund has one again shown their support for the less fortunate by donating \$5,600 to major charities during December.

Charities Fund Treasurer John Leinster said \$1,500 had been donated to each of the charities St Vincent De Paul, Gladstone Salvation Army and Roseberry Community Services. A further \$1,200 was donated to the Westowe Rural Fire Brigade to assist with the maintenance on the brigade truck.

"It's always good to see the money going to those that really need it, especially this time of year," John said.

Since its formation by NRG employees on 5 August 1982, the Gladstone Community Charities Fund has donated over \$352, 000 to charities in the Gladstone Community. The success of the fund lies with the employees who continue to contribute on a weekly basis. To assist the fund in its charity work NRG also contributes \$6,500 to the fund each year.

During 2008 the Fund contributed \$8795 to charities in the Gladstone region.

Charities Fund President Archie Lowe said while it is important to look back at what the fund has been able to achieve it was important to ensure that the good work continued into the future.

"We have some 290 employees who work at

the station and yet we have only 81 in the fund. We all have our favourite charities to support but on behalf of the fund if you are not a member I would encourage you to consider joining. We only ask for a minimum of \$1 a week although some employees contribute up to \$20 per week. All contributions are tax deductible," Archie said.

Employees who would like to contribute to the fund or increase their contribution can contact Natalie Hurst in the Human Resources section.

If you have any questions about the fund you can contact any member of the committee - President Archie Lowe, Secretary Doug Thomas, Treasurer John Leinster, Trustee Ray Waghorn and committee members Gary Macnamara, Cheryl Jackson, Brian Clarke, John Lynch, Ray Waghorn and Kerry Moffit.



*Charities Fund representatives Archie Lowe and John Leinster present cheques to St Vincent de Paul's Ron Clough and Denis Mitchell, Roseberry Community Services Corina Ridley and Lorna McGrath and the Salvation Army's Major Bill Hutley*

## Noel's off to Stanthorpe



*Noel Missingham is looking forward to taking up the position of chaplain at Stanthorpe State High School.*

Specialist Control Systems Service Engineer, Noel Missingham was farewelled by friends and workmates on 16 January. Noel has decided to leave the engineering field for the time being and has taken up the position as chaplain at Stanthorpe State High School.

"It's been a tough decision leaving a stable engineering job but I'm willing to try new things while I'm still young. I've always been interested in Christian Ministry and working with young people. If I can make a difference in their lives it will have been a worthwhile experience," Noel said

Noel said he been impressed by the work culture and friendliness of fellow employees since joining NRG in July 2007.

"I've learnt a lot in the short time I've been here and for this I am thankful to the staff at NRG for all the help, support, and guidance I have been given during my time with the company. I have enjoyed the role and the people very much and will always have fond memories." Noel said.

Before joining NRG, Noel had spent two years working for local engineering company; Welcon Technologies. Working as a co-op engineering student Noel was also involved in a project at NRG in 2004 to upgrade the seal oil plant hazardous area.

Noel and his wife Judith are expecting their first child in May.

## Steve Joins Tarong North Power Station

After 21 years at GPS, Unit Controller Steve Bridges has decided to move on. Steve relocated his family to Brisbane about 12 months ago and his new job at Tarong North will allow him to spend more time with his family.

"I'm really happy to have worked at GPS and sad to be leaving but changed family circumstances meant it was time to move on," Steve said.

Steve joined the electricity industry in January 1981 working at National Bank House in Brisbane as a Technical Officer on the Tarong Construction Project. During his six years at head office, Steve worked on various coal and precipitator projects under the guidance of Stuart Lister and Ken Eckert.

In 1987 Steve transferred to GPS, initially working for Bob Truscott in the investigations area. Looking to broaden his knowledge of the station Steve moved into the Production area in 1989 as a Technical Officer. With GPS experiencing a shortage of operators at the time Steve was successful in being appointed to an operator's position in September 1990.

"I've really enjoyed the people in the electricity industry. Every job has been a good experience and Gladstone has been a wonderful place to bring up the kids," Steve said.

Always an enthusiastic self starter Steve has not only been highly supportive of his children's careers but he has played an active role in the Gladstone sporting community.

Steve has been involved in the life saving movement for over 30 years and has filled the position of chief instructor at the Tannum Sands Surf Lifesaving Club. While supporting his children in their

various sporting activities Stephen has also coached and refereed junior rugby league, touch football and soccer.

In more recent years Steve had also taken on the role of strength and conditioning coach for the elite volleyballers at the Gladstone High School's Volleyball School of Excellence. Steve's youngest daughter Michelle was a successful product of the school and was a prominent member of Queensland and Australian volleyball teams.



*Steve and his wife Debbie are looking forward to spending more time with their family in Brisbane.*

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## Welcome Jason Owen

This month we welcome Jason Owen who recently commenced as a Graduate Information Services Officer in the Information Services team.

Hailing from Bundaberg, Jason completed his Bachelor of Information Technology degree through CQ University Rockhampton. During



his studies Jason also worked as a Manager at McDonalds for two years at their Bundaberg store.

Jason said he was looking forward to spending the next two years at GPS and was very impressed with the professionalism of the staff at NRG.

"There's a lot of experienced people here and there are a lot of good procedures in place to help people get started," Jason said.

Having just moved to Gladstone, Jason said he was still getting used to living in an industrial town.

"When I walk up the main street many of the businesses have an industrial focus which is different to Bundaberg which is more focussed on tourism and farming," Jason said.

While currently commuting from Rockhampton Jason is intending to purchase a house in the local area so the family can become settled in Gladstone. Jason is married to Candice and the couple have two young children aged three and six months.

Jason has a strong interest in software development and 3D modelling and his other leisure time interests include playing basketball and going to the movies.

*Jason has been impressed with the professionalism of NRG staff since joining the station.*

## Getting Personal with Technical Officer Control Systems Glen Que

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

The plant looks to be in good condition and seems to be a great place to work. The people I have met and worked with have all made it easy to settle in to the job and made me feel welcome.

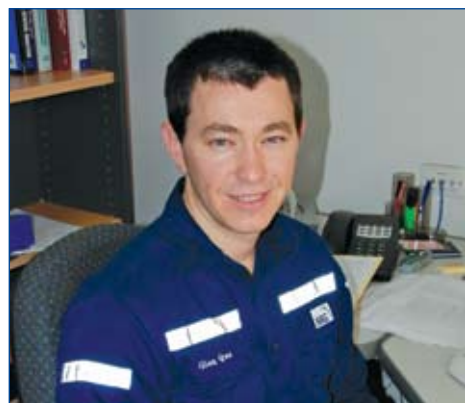
***What have you enjoyed about your new role?***

My role here is different to my previous roles so it has been interesting taking on something different. I'm really enjoying having RDO's again.

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

I have found everyone to be very friendly, helpful and willing to give assistance. The conversations during lunch breaks in the fish bowl are always entertaining.

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



My previous role was with Incitec Pivot at their plant in Brisbane. It produces liquid ammonia, liquid CO<sub>2</sub>, urea and other fertilizers. I started there four years ago as an electrical/ instrument technician. After a couple of years in that role I took on the role of electrical engineer for the urea, CO<sub>2</sub> and utilities plants and stayed in this role until coming to NRG. Prior to Incitec Pivot I worked at QAL for five years where I completed my electrical/ instrumentation apprenticeship and worked as an electrical fitter in the boiler/utilities area. When I finished my trade I started studying part time with USQ and have now completed my associate degree. I will be studying towards my Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Electrical) in the New Year.

***Your dad Ray has worked at the station for a long time. Did you seek out his advice when deciding to join NRG***

Yes, I did ask him what he thought the job would be like and what it would involve. It was good to get that extra opinion before I accepted the job.

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

I was interested in coming back to Gladstone and I had always heard good things about the conditions and work environment at Gladstone Power Station. Also having worked in a refinery and a petro-chem plant I thought that taking a job in the power industry would be good experience for me.

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

I like to surf, travel and go to music festivals and concerts. I also play touch football and try to do some form of exercise most days of the week.

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

I enjoy being back with my friends and family. It's nice to be able to drive around town without getting stuck in traffic.

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

I was born in Gladstone and went to Gladstone State High School.

***My worst habit is.....***

My addiction to Ice Break (iced coffee)

***If I wasn't a Technical Officer I would probably be.....***

Never really thought about it but I think a commercial pilot would be a good job.

***Someone who makes me laugh is.....***

The characters in Seinfeld and Entourage.

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

Europe, Ireland and the UK, a trip I did last year.

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

Painting and drawing, pretty much anything artistic.

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

Making the time to do my university study while working full-time and still trying to have a life.

## Service Register – January 2009

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. This register is for employees whose anniversary falls during the month of January.

47 years Don Shambrook

46 years Trevor Heard

43 years Tony Frazer

40 years Bill Cary

39 years Wayne Watson

34 years Ross Ahern, Kevin Johnson

33 years Bob Dennien, Ross Stieler, Rod Augusten, John Cook, Graham Long

31 years Michael Mann, Ray Waghorn

30 years Kevin Peagam

29 years Neil Smith, Russell Hunt, Kerry Raine

28 years

27 years

26 years

24 years

23 years

22 years

21 years

20 years

19 years

17 years

16 years

15 years

11 years

Stephen Bridges, Ron Williams, Darren Ross

Gary Macnamara, Bob Pirie, John Hall, Neil Petersen

Ray Sumner

Kelvin Bebendorf, Bill Whitmore

Stephen Lewis

John Dickfos

John Gibson

Jeffrey Clifton

David Allen, Kelvin Newman

Gerry Schouten, Robert Sweeney

Andrew Sibley, Sandra Hunt

Matthew Adamson, Robert Button

Graham Murray, Kym Haack

## Where are they now? – Ross Kohn

*The Gladrag has introduced a new column titled "Where are they now" which aims to seek out former employees and find out what they've been up to since leaving GPS. If you know of a former employee who may be interested in participating please forward their contact details to Gary Macnamara ext 504.*

**What period did you work at the station?**

Early 1983 - late 2001

**What was your role at the station and who are the other people you worked with in your section?**

I was originally employed as a scaffolder/rigger. They were the days. We had a great bunch of guys in that section. People that come to mind are Big Pete Van Nimwegen, Lloyd Windress, Mick Aroney, Possum (god bless him), Brian (Sully) O'Sullivan, Kevin (Bummy) Hansen, Marty Keong, Jock Kynoch, Sam Castillo and who could forget Zimmo. I moved into maintenance planning as a back up facilitator and ended up working with Neville Beckman as part of the Station Coordination group. The people I worked with there were Don Lodding, Jack Carroll, Greg Clinton, Jude Mitchell, Terry Simpson and Tony McCray.

**What are your fondest memories of working at the station?**

GPS was a great place to work. Everyone got on fairly well together. I suppose the memories that really stick in my mind are the fun times with the rigging crew. I have many fond memories of the Rec Club.

**Tell us about your years with the GPS Rec Club.**

The Rec Club was by far the best \$1 or \$2 a week you could spend. I was fortunate to be President of the Club for four years. I enjoyed the happy hours we used to have in the canteen before they were moved to the beer garden area at the old security hut and to the Young Australian Hotel. The harbour cruises were a highlight – what better than to sail around on a luxury vessel drinking, eating fresh prawns and enjoying the company of good people.

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

I miss the many friends we had but I really miss the fishing trips with Bob Pirie.

**What have you done since leaving Gladstone?**

I moved to Millmerran to take up the position of Maintenance Coordinator at Millmerran Power Station and have been here ever since. There is not a great deal of sport in Millmerran so we spend a lot of time on the road. Trips to Toowoomba and Brisbane are a common event. The local football competition takes us to places like Stanthorpe and Tenterfield. I have bought a caravan this year and intend joining the grey nomads. I have also taken up road cycling and enjoy getting out on the country roads to do battle with the cattle, snakes, rabbits and kangaroos.

**What do you enjoy about living in Millmerran?**

Millmerran is a small close knit rural community where you pretty much know everyone. It doesn't have any traffic lights, roundabouts or fast food stores like KFC and McDonalds. The stars at night are brighter and living in the country is certainly more relaxed. Brisbane is only two and quarter hours away and you can go to the rugby league and be home that night. The Sunshine and Gold Coasts are only a few hours away.

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

No, not really.

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

My wife Helen works at the local state school as a Teacher Aide in Administration. She has continued coaching representative basketball in Toowoomba and has been very successful at state level.



Ross is enjoying his new role at Millmerran Power Station.

Brent has just turned 18 and finished Year 12 at Pittsworth State High School in 2007. He has done very well in sport since moving here. He made the Queensland primary school touch team which went on to win the national championships. He has played basketball for Toowoomba at state championships. In 2007 he represented Queensland in athletics and finished eighth in both long and triple jump at the nationals. He has worked at the local sports complex this year and goes to university in Toowoomba next year to study Physical Education.

Riley is 15 and in his final year at Millmerran State School. Next year he commences Year 11 at Pittsworth High next year. Riley has represented Darling Downs on several occasions for basketball and is a very good tennis player.

Liam is 11 and is in Year 6. He enjoys swimming and playing rugby league.

### \$ For Sale \$

Iron Frame Piano Victor Artist Model, good condition \$1,000, table tennis table \$25, McCulloch 17 whipper snipper \$10.

Phone Gary ext 504 or Mob 0439 993 496.



The eighteenth national Clean-up Australia Day is scheduled for Sunday 1 March and interested employees and

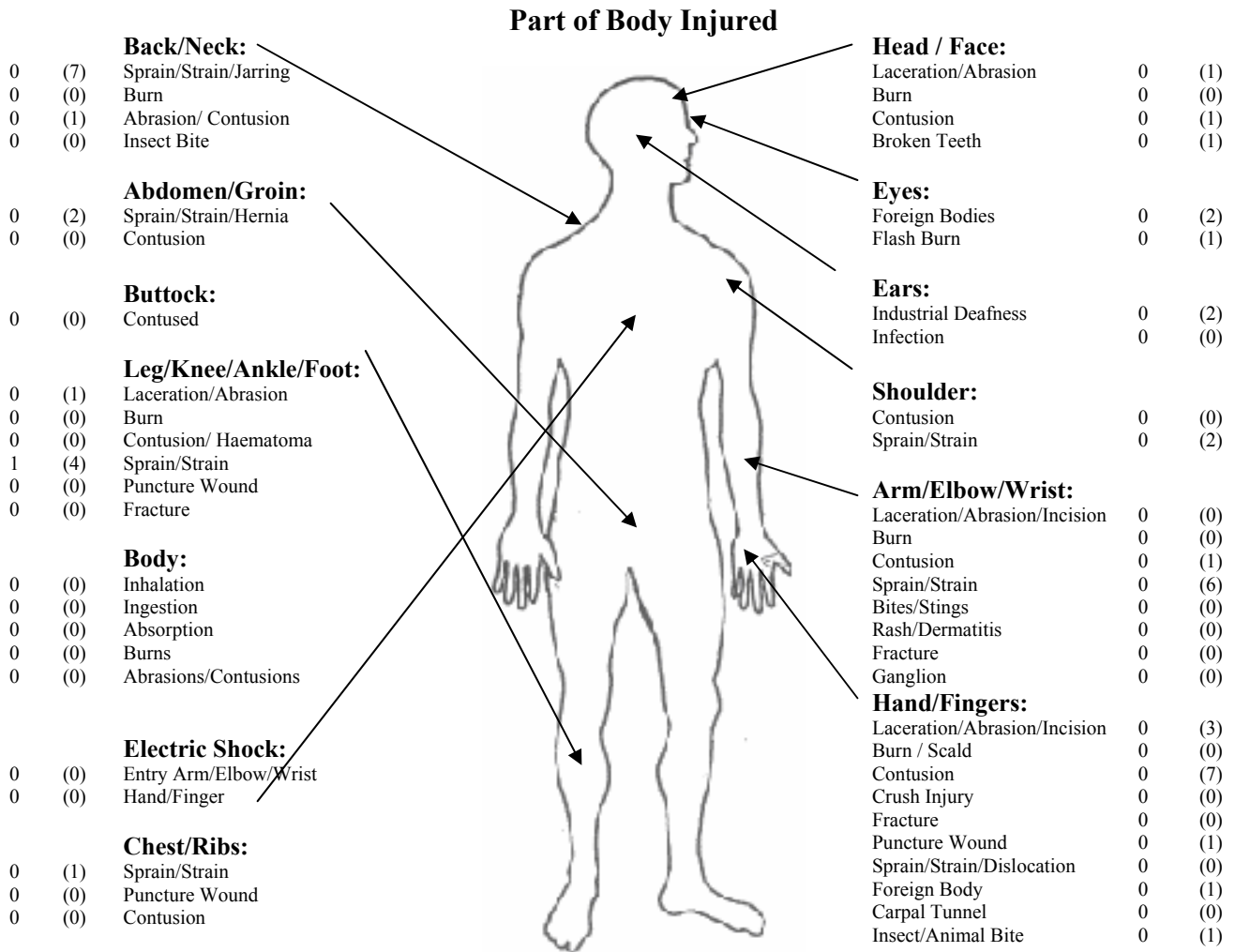
their families are invited to volunteer their services for the morning.

This will be the eighteenth 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 Injury Statistics for December 2008

Numbers in brackets denote Year to Date (YTD)



**Injury Classification YTD.**

- 5 LTI / Restricted Work Day
- 3 Medical Treatment cases
- 40 First-aid Injuries
- 5 Industrial Deafness
- 1 Occ. Disease

**This diagram shows injuries of:  
Permanent NRG Employees & Apprentices  
Specific Task Employees  
NRG Labour Hire Employees.**

## NRG Great Raft Race



NRG is once again sponsoring The Great Raft Race at the 2008 Gladstone Harbour Festival. The race will be held on Good Friday 10 April at 10am at the Goondoon Street Boat Ramp.

NRG's sponsorship is \$11,000. NRG will sponsor the construction of a limited number of rafts to be built and crewed by NRG employees. NRG will sponsor materials to an agreed budget. There will a prize for the first NRG crew over the line.

Employees or crews interested in designing a raft should submit their design and budgets to their department manager for approval. Remember raft designs should be safe, environmentally friendly and have high entertainment value.