

# Newsletter of the Uranquinty Power Station



Together we can make a difference.™



August 2010

Welcome to the first edition of the Uranquinty Power Station newsletter. Since Origin became part of the Uranquinty community in 2009 when the Power Station became operational; the plant has been generating power for homes and businesses along the eastern seaboard of Australia at times of highest demand and with a significantly lower carbon emission than most other power stations in Australia. Through our quarterly newsletter, Origin is committed to informing the people of Uranquinty and district, of activities and opportunities at the Power Station as well as keeping everybody up to date with our initiatives to support the local community.

## Uranquinty goes green under solar partnership



Installation of the solar panels on the roof of the Uranquinty Community Hall

The Uranquinty community is set to benefit from a new solar partnership agreement between Origin Energy, Wagga Wagga City Council and the Uranquinty Progress Association. An agreement confirming the partnership was signed at Wagga Wagga City Council offices in July, and since then, Origin Energy, Australia's leading integrated energy company, has installed a 2.3kW solar electricity system on the roof of the recently completed Uranquinty Community Hall.

Community Relations Advisor for Origin's Uranquinty Power Station, Lisa Glastonbury, says the 14 panels installed early in August will enable the community to offset their electricity use, reduce their carbon footprint as well as create an income stream to fund worthwhile community activities.

Under the NSW Government's Gross Feed In Tariff (FIT), the Progress Association will be paid for the electricity that is generated by the cells installed on the hall roof and fed back into the grid.

"We have listened to the Uranquinty community and are excited to develop this partnership together with Wagga Wagga City Council and the Uranquinty Progress Association to generate positive outcomes for the local area," said Mrs Glastonbury. "We are looking forward to handing the solar system over to the Uranquinty Progress Association in

the near future, once it becomes fully operational," she said.

Mayor Pascoe said that this was a positive step toward embracing a lower carbon future and installation of the solar system on the Council owned community hall was in line with Council's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020. "This is a fantastic opportunity to broaden green power usage in the community," he said.

Bruce Harris, President of the Uranquinty Progress Association, said the agreement was very exciting and will further strengthen the relationship between Origin and the Uranquinty community. "Small villages like Uranquinty often struggle to find the resources to support community activities. The income generated by the solar system will help us to make the new hall a real focus for local events and activities", he said.



R-L Matt Hallam, Lisa Glastonbury, Mayor Pascoe and Bruce Harris confirm the Solar partnership

# Green Thumbs

## The Rock students put 'green thumbs' to work at Uranquinty

Students from The Rock Central School have learnt how to become 'trainee power station operators' following their recent visit to the Uranquinty Power Station. Our team at the Power Station welcomed 110 students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 for a tour of the gas-fired facility at Uranquinty. Community Relations Advisor at Uranquinty, Lisa Glastonbury, gave a presentation to the students about how electricity is made as well as renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind. They learned about how power is supplied by the Uranquinty plant as reliable, clean, safe electricity to homes along Australia's eastern seaboard. The students then toured the site, with Plant Technician Matt Bett giving them the opportunity to see firsthand how turbines operate and learn how the Power Station fits into the electricity supply chain. Completing an activity sheet along the way, Operations Support Engineer Bryony Atkinson explained how the control room operates and what electricity is used for in the home. As well as getting students thinking about where power comes from, the visit gave the students the chance to get their hands dirty by planting locally native trees and shrubs around the power station.

The tree planting was in celebration of National Tree Day and The Rock Central School helped out by learning how to plant and care for more than 200 native trees. The avenue of trees they planted will grow into a green corridor and provide food and habitat for native wildlife.



After all their hard work the students enjoyed a lunchtime barbecue at the new Uranquinty multipurpose centre, cooked up by Origin staff.

At the end of the day, the children were awarded with an Origin certificate of congratulations to pin up on the fridge at home as well as some Switch OFF and Save Energy stickers and a Fact Sheet to take home to show mum and dad.

Lisa Glastonbury said Origin is committed to communicating important environmental messages to students. "This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about how electricity is generated; make a contribution to the natural environment and have lots of fun at the same time."

"Engaging students in a series of fun, hands on activities at the power station reinforced their environmental learning and got them thinking about how they can save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at home and at school," said Mrs Glastonbury.

This is the first step that Origin is taking at Uranquinty in developing a program of educational tours for school groups in the region.

Ms Ellen Brasier, Principal of The Rock Central School, said the power station visit was very exciting and educational for the students. "We are looking forward to having Lisa visit us at school to see the posters that our younger children have drawn of their visit and to present some book prizes to students that worked especially hard on their activity sheets."



Origin staff and  
volunteers with  
students proudly  
displaying their  
Certificates

## Power Station inspires local artists

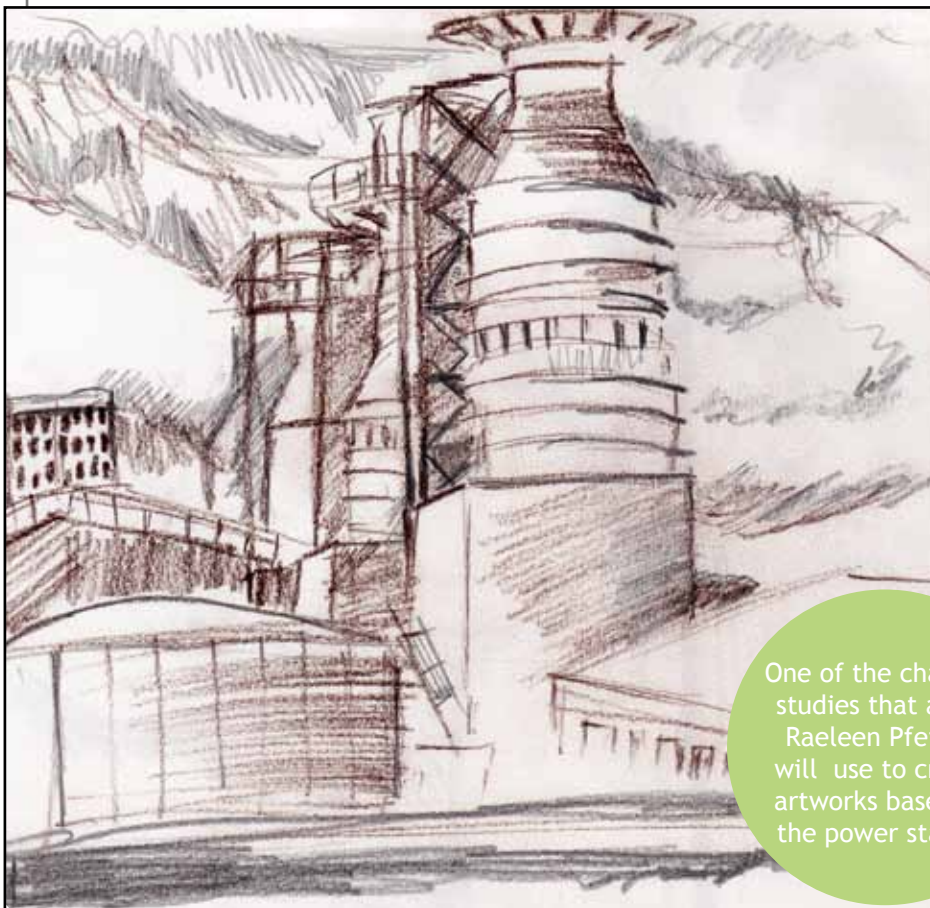
Two well known local artists have been spending time at the Power Station recently, sketching the geometrical shapes of the facility and preparing a series of small studies in pencil and charcoal. These visits are the first of many steps for Ms Raeleen Pfeiffer and Ms Canny Kinloch in creating several artworks based on the Power station and surrounding landscape.

Canny and Raeleen are both practicing artists with local studios. Canny is based at Uranquinty where she combines her art practice in sculpture, painting and print making, with teaching.

Canny has undertaken several local sculptural commissions and has shown her work in more than twenty exhibitions throughout Australia. She enjoys painting as the basis of her work in which landscape is often an important component. "I am looking forward to observing the seasonal differences at the Power Station and making use of changing colour and light on the land and structures" she said.



Local artists Raeleen Pfeiffer (centre) and Canny Kinloch (right) with Community Relations Advisor, Lisa Glastonbury on a familiarisation tour of the Power Station



One of the charcoal studies that artist Raeleen Pfeiffer will use to create artworks based on the power station

Raeleen Pfeiffer works from her Strayleaves Art Studio at The Rock where she conducts workshops, exhibitions and art classes. Raeleen's first solo exhibition was held in Wagga Wagga in 2001 and since then she has sold many works to private collections and exhibited works throughout the region as well as in Sydney and Melbourne. Raeleen is particularly interested in utilising the geometrical shapes of the power station and the contrast between this and the surrounding country landscape.

"We are really looking forward to entering our work in several upcoming exhibitions such as the Wagga Wagga Art Prize", said Raeleen. This is the first year that Wagga Wagga has held an Art competition since 2007 and Origin Energy are supporting the Contemporary/ Abstract/ Mixed Media category. "It will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase our work featuring the Power Station and gain public exposure for our contemporary style", she said.

Origin is committed to supporting the local community and is pleased to support one of the most prestigious events on the local art scene. The Wagga Wagga Art Prize will showcase high quality artworks produced by local artists like Canny and Raeleen, as well as encouraging and supporting our local arts community. The Wagga Wagga Art Prize 2010 will also raise money to support the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Auxiliary.

## September shutdown planned

The Uranquinty Power Station will shut down for planned maintenance and gas system upgrades for two weeks from 1st until 15th September, 2010. This will involve up to 60 engineers, technicians and tradesmen working on site.

Origin is very conscious of the need to limit the disruption that these activities may cause to the neighbourhood and have taken every precaution to limit traffic movements, noise and lighting that may affect nearby residents.

Many of the technicians will be transported on buses to limit the amount of extra traffic to and from site, and heavy traffic movements will be restricted to the hours of 7am to 7pm from Mondays to Saturdays.

In the event that night work needs to be carried out during the shutdown, it will be restricted to those tasks which do not produce noise and for which only limited lighting is required. Should lighting be required at night these lights will be pointed downwards to limit their visibility to neighbours.

Any neighbours wishing to understand the works in greater detail should contact Lisa Glastonbury on 1800 065322.

# Science star Fact file

## Origin challenges community to support local science star

Budding scientist Alice Bauer from The Rock has been selected to attend National Youth Science Week in Pretoria, South Africa. Seventeen year old Alice was selected by Rotary and the National Youth Science Forum to represent Australia at the conference.

To enable her to make the journey to South Africa, Alice needs to raise \$9,500. Whilst she is working hard on weekends as a waitress to raise this sum, she needs the support of the local community to top up her own fundraising efforts.

Origin Energy is committed to supporting the communities in which we operate and has embraced the challenge of helping Alice get to the Science Week conference. Origin has issued a challenge to other local contractors and businesses to raise the balance of funds that Alice requires. For every \$1000 they raise, up to the \$3000 target, Origin will donate \$500. After completing her Higher School Certificate later this year, Alice plans to study zoology or marine biology at university. Origin embraces the philosophy of sustainability and encourages Alice in her endeavours to learn more about our natural environment.

Scientists are concerned that steadily rising global temperatures may make the earth a lot warmer in the coming decades, with serious consequences for life on earth. It is the young scientists of today, like Alice, that will need to research and address the possible consequences of climate change and global warming such as rising sea levels, collapsing ice sheets, acid oceans and rainforest wildfires.

Increasingly frequent and extreme floods, droughts and extreme heatwaves will impact on Australia's fragile natural environment, causing the extinction of many plants and animals. The scientists of the future will need to help us in the battle to combat climate change and to embrace living in more sustainable ways.

## Fact file

Living in a way that uses as few non-renewable resources as possible is called sustainable living. To live sustainably we need to use less fossil fuel to produce energy. This means we have to reduce our energy usage and also produce the energy we do use in more sustainable ways.

Is your home sustainable?

Some of Origin's top tips for saving energy at home:

- If you're not using your TV or computer, switch it off! Don't just leave it on standby.
- Tumble dryers use lots of energy. Dry clothes outside on a washing line or inside on a clothes airer.
- In winter, turn the heating down! Do you really need to be that hot? If you feel cold put on an extra layer of clothes.
- Use energy saving light globes in your home. They only use one quarter of the electricity of normal light globes and last up to twelve times longer.
- When buying new equipment like fridges or washing machines, check the label to see how energy efficient they are.

## Contact

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