



UPS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2011

Peter Ryan and daughter Ella were part of the Origin Power Walkers team at the Wagga Wagga Relay for Life

Welcome to the third edition of the Uranquinty Power Station newsletter. This newsletter provides information to the people of Uranquinty and district on activities and opportunities at the power station, as well as our initiatives to support the local community. More copies are available by either contacting us, or downloading from our website www.originenergy.com.au/UPS

Origin Power Walkers 'power on' through the night for a good cause

Staff from the Uranquinty Power Station recently embraced the Relay for Life challenge and raised \$4434 for the important fight against cancer.

Their team, the Origin Power Walkers, walked continuously for 24 hours not only to raise much needed funds, but also to raise community awareness of cancer and celebrate with cancer survivors.

Team Captain, Lisa Glastonbury, said that the team of staff, family and friends worked hard in the weeks leading up to the event to raise money, with the Origin Foundation matching the funds they raised, on a dollar for dollar basis.

The Origin Foundation is a philanthropic foundation with a focus on education as a pathway to better lives. The Origin Foundation's matched giving program, matches donations made by Origin employees to Australian charities, doubling the value of their donations.

Origin proudly supports employees fundraising efforts to make a difference in the lives of people affected by cancer. Lisa said "almost everybody in the Wagga community knows someone whose life has been affected by cancer. We wanted to find a way to help, and the money we raised will assist the Cancer Council to provide support for local cancer sufferers and their families."

Although largely a team of work colleagues, the Origin Power Walkers team invited their families to be involved as well. "We have several new staff members at the Power Station, and Relay for Life was a great way for us to get to know each other better," Lisa said.

It was very much a celebratory event for the whole community and it was great to see the Origin Power Walkers have such a great time, as well as making a positive contribution to the lives of people affected by cancer," said Lisa.



Launching a snake kite.

Working with local schools

During the first few months of 2011, Origin has supported several positive initiatives with our two local schools at The Rock and Uranquinty.

Flying High at Kite Day

In March, Origin was involved with The Rock Central School's Kite Day. Over two days, each of the 168 students from Kindergarten to Year Ten were involved in making an individual kite; all of which were joined together to make one of the largest pyramid kites in the southern hemisphere!

Kite making was a unique experience for the students, and required them to collaborate and work together under the instruction of Rob King, the "Kite Man".

Having prepared their kites; all the students, along with family, friends and supporters gathered at the local recreation park to launch them. Despite the lack of wind, almost everyone was able to fly their own kite and the massive pyramid kite was successfully launched with the assistance of several strong lads and a very fast runner.

Origin is committed to making a positive, long-term contribution to the local community, and is pleased to have been able to support such a great school and family event with the community of The Rock.

Uranquinty students up to the challenge

In the last week of the school term, Uranquinty Public School students Ashley Gunning and Grace Biggs were presented with award certificates and book vouchers as reward for their efforts in the Origin Library Reading Challenge.

Uranquinty Power Station Plant Manager, Darren Stephenson, presented the awards at a school assembly along with school librarian Kristie Brett.



The 'Pyramid Kite'.

The Origin Library Reading Challenge commenced in term three last year and was developed to foster an interest in reading.

Ashley and Grace were the most regular readers over the term and they are to be congratulated on their commitment to regular borrowing from the library, as well as sharing book information with the rest of the class in group "book chat" sessions.

Grace and Ashley have used their book vouchers to choose books for themselves and have also helped the librarian, Ms Brett, to select \$250 worth of books for the school library.

Origin is pleased to foster an interest in reading and encourage children to develop lifelong reading habits through the Origin Library Reading Challenge.



Grace and Ashley receive their awards from Power Station Manager Darren Stephenson and school librarian Kristie Brett.

Helping with energy efficiency

Origin Energy Efficiency Advocate, Anne Armansin recently visited Wagga Wagga to assist the Police Community Youth Council (PCYC) and Wagga Wagga City Council to become more energy efficient.

Anne has over 10 years experience in energy efficiency and met up in Wagga with Lisa Glastonbury, Community Relations Advisor at the Uranquinty Power Station. Together, Anne and Lisa conducted a full energy audit of the PCYC and Jubilee Park sporting complex buildings to determine how they can better manage their energy use of major appliances.

Anne will be providing a full report to Council and the PCYC with practical tips on how they can reduce their consumption as well as \$1,000 that they can spend on sustainable energy technology and expertise to assist them on their sustainability journey.

As Australia's leading integrated energy company, Origin is committed to offering useful advice on how communities and households can actively conserve energy. Origin has also invested in renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar, hydro and geo-thermal.

"We hope that by providing an energy audit and some assistance to become more energy efficient, Wagga Wagga City Council and the PCYC will have a greater understanding about their energy usage. Our focus is on giving power back to the people by providing practical advice to help people manage their bills as well as their impact on the environment," said Anne Armansin.

"Residents in Wagga Wagga and across country NSW are spending upwards of \$2,000 annually on electricity which is why we are committed to finding workable solutions that can be easily implemented by everyone," says Anne.

Anne suggests that households can reduce electricity costs by looking at the high usage things like heating, cooling, lighting and swimming pool/spa pumps.

"If you understand what it is in your home that uses the most energy, you can budget and manage its use accordingly" she said. Often households need to sit down as a family and make some house rules about usage.

Anne's top tips for households to save both energy and money include:

- when heating, close windows and doors and shut curtains and blinds
- open curtains and blinds on sunny winter days to let the sunlight in
- only heat the room you're in to 18-20 degrees, or cool it to 25–27 degrees
- take shorter showers – showering for five instead of ten minutes could save you \$70-\$100 per year
- set your fridge temperature to three to five degrees and your freezer at -15 to -18 degrees
- switch lights off when you leave a room.



Origin's Energy Efficiency Advocate, Anne Armansin with Lisa Glastonbury at the Wagga PCYC.



Introducing Darren Stephenson

In January this year, Darren Stephenson was appointed to the position of Plant Manager at the Uranquinty Power Station.

Darren, along with his wife Kaylene and twin boys Ryan and Josh, have relocated from the Lockyer Valley in Queensland, to live in Uranquinty.

"My family and I have always lived in small rural towns and we are keen to get involved in local events and become part of the community here in Uranquinty" said Darren.

Darren has considerable experience in power generation, having worked for 28 years in the electrical industry of which the last twelve years were with the Queensland Government Owned Corporation Tarong Energy. He has gained his experience across hydro, coal-fired thermal, wind and gas generation.

"We have a highly skilled technical team at the Uranquinty plant and I am very much looking forward to working alongside them as we transition into the mature phase of operations at the Power Station," he said.

Darren replaces Matt Hallam, who has moved to a new appointment in the Origin Office in Brisbane.



South Wagga Rotarians learn how the control room functions, at the Uranquinty Power Station

Rotarians tour Power Station

One evening in April, staff at the Uranquinty Power Station welcomed the South Wagga Rotary Club to the power station to learn more about the role that the Uranquinty facility plays in providing electricity to the homes and businesses along Australia's eastern seaboard.

Mechanical Technician Peter Ryan and Community Relations Advisor, Lisa Glastonbury, greeted the group of twenty Rotarians and gave a presentation about how electricity is generated at the Uranquinty plant. The group also toured the turbine halls and learned how the four open cycle gas turbines send up to 664 MW of power to the national grid at maximum capacity.

The group were particularly interested to learn about Origin's recent acquisition of the retail businesses of both Integral Energy and Country Energy, as part of the NSW Energy Reform. As a result, Origin is now Australia's largest energy retailer with 4.6 million customer accounts and is the leading green energy retailer with more than 500,000 GreenPower and Green Gas accounts.

Lisa also explained the significant investments Origin makes in developing renewable energy technologies including wind, solar, geothermal and hydro.

Rotarian Lindsay Wilson said "This was a wonderful opportunity for our group to learn not only about the gas-fired generation technology at Uranquinty, but we were also very interested to hear about Origin's wind farm at Cullerin and SLIVER technology."

"South Wagga Rotary extends our thanks to Peter and Lisa for a very informative and professional tour," he said.

Origin is committed to making the Uranquinty facility available for further community tours and requests can be made to Lisa at lisa.glastonbury@originenergy.com.au

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