

STANWELL COMMUNITY NEWS

TARONG POWER STATIONS AND MEANDU MINE



WELCOME TO THE MARCH 2025 EDITION!

Read about:

- Russell Vorpapel retires after 46 years with Stanwell
- Welcoming Apprentices and Trainees - our newest bright sparks
- Maintaining top performance through our cooling tower refurbishment
- Scholarship support for two local engineering students

FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGERS

Mick Joy and Andrew Toms

General Manager, Tarong Power Stations and General Manager, Meandu Mine

What a challenging start to the year it has been for our region. Our thoughts are with everyone impacted by floods and wild weather during summer. At the time of sending this newsletter, we are waiting anxiously to see the impact of Tropical Cyclone Alfred on our community and surrounding region. We don't know the extent of the damage yet, but we do know how strong and resilient our community is and that we will all come together to support each other through the recovery.

We have powered into 2025 by welcoming nine new apprentices and trainees to the Tarong power stations team and we are excited to support them as they embark on their career journey with Stanwell.

We are also extremely proud to award two worthy recipients the Russell Vorpapel Engineering Scholarship! They will receive financial assistance as they commence their engineering studies, as well as the opportunity for vacation employment with Stanwell during their university holidays. We look forward to supporting them throughout their studies and seeing them at Tarong power stations soon.

Earlier this year, we started cultural heritage assessments in Meandu Mine's surface rights area, focusing on the King 2 East Box Cut. We recognise the ongoing connection of the Wakka Wakka people with the land where our sites operate. Protecting their cultural heritage from harm is an important part of how we generate energy. Stanwell

has a duty of care to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage wherever our operations create land disturbance, and we take this responsibility seriously. Our mining and stakeholder engagement teams have been working closely with Wakka Wakka representatives to identify and protect their cultural heritage.

Looking ahead, the team at Tarong power stations are preparing for two significant maintenance overhauls this year. The first at Tarong North will run from 25 April to late June 2025, and the second on Unit 1 will be from mid-September to November 2025. These planned maintenance overhauls are essential for ensuring the ongoing reliability and safety of our power stations and will bring hundreds of visiting workers here to enjoy all that the South Burnett has to offer.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we hope 2025 brings a healthy balance of sunshine and rain!

Regards,

Mick Joy and Andrew Toms



RUSSELL VORPAGEL IS HANGING UP THE HARD HAT AFTER 46 REMARKABLE YEARS



After an impressive 46 years, one of our longest-serving employees, Russell Vorpagel, has hung up his Stanwell hard hat for the last time!

Russell's admirable career in the energy industry began when he commenced a Mechanical Fitter Apprenticeship at Swanbank while studying for an Associate Degree in Engineering at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in 1979.

In 1982, he was honored as Queensland Apprentice of the Year and continued to work at many sites across Southern and Central Queensland.

In 1983, he pursued a Bachelor of Engineering at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), graduating in 1990 with the QUT Medal for Engineering, for achieving the highest GPA among graduates.

Russell joined Tarong Power Station as a Mechanical Engineer on the boiler plant when he moved to the South Burnett in 1993. He advanced to Senior Mechanical Engineer in 1998 and became Superintendent in 2005, where he has continued to provide invaluable guidance to the Mechanical and Civil Engineering and Asset Management teams.

Quickly integrating into the local community, Russell became involved with the Kingaroy Touch Footy association as a player, referee, coach, manager and member of the Executive Committee.

He says that the South Burnett region has a strong sense of community, making it an ideal place to raise your family.

"I love spending time outdoors! It has all the benefits of a close-knit country town yet is only a few hours' drive from many amazing destinations in South-East Queensland." Russell says.

Throughout his career with Stanwell, Russell has seen the development of

many generation projects, including the commissioning of Tarong Power Station in 1984 and the construction of Stanwell Power Station in 1993.

A standout moment in his career was being the inspiration behind the Russell Vorpagel Engineering Scholarship, which supports young engineers.



"I'm really proud that the scholarship helps local students who are moving away from home to study engineering. It also encourages them to return to the area and commence their careers at Tarong Power Station."

"To anyone thinking about a career in energy, I say go for it! Always push yourself and make it a point to learn something new every day.

At Tarong Power Station, we have a team of experienced professionals who are more than happy to guide you and share their knowledge!"

Congratulations Russell on an incredible career! Wishing you all the best in your retirement.



Read more about Russell's story, scan the QR code.



ENERGY EXPERIENCED: RUSSELL VORPAGEL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

We recently awarded the Russell Vorpagel Engineering Scholarship to two local students, Oliver Vogelaar and Leonard Potgieter who are preparing to begin their university studies.

The scholarship is designed for students pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering degree (one mechanical and one electrical).

Recognising the potential hardships faced by students from our regional communities to attend university, the scholarship provides \$10,000 per year for up to four years. This will help students with the costs associated with living and studying away from home.

In addition, the scholarship includes a mentoring program and vacation work opportunities on site at the Tarong power stations during their university holidays.

Recipient Leonard Potgieter says he has always been intrigued by the work involved at our power stations.

“I started studying electrical engineering and was lucky enough to get some work experience at Tarong Power Station. I was completely mesmerised by the scale and complexity of the operation.”

“That experience really solidified my interest in the industry.”

“I’m very thankful to have the opportunity to study and work in an industry I’m passionate about, while staying connected to my local South Burnett community,” Leonard says.

Being a large operator in the region, it is important to us that we invest in our local talent and support them to launch successful careers in the energy industry.

Congratulations to Leonard, who will be studying Electrical Engineering and Oliver who will be studying Mechanical Engineering.

MAINTAINING TOP PERFORMANCE

The Tarong power stations’ Assets and Engineering team has reached a key milestone by completing the refurbishment of the Unit 1 and 2 cooling tower. The extensive project highlights our continued commitment to asset maintenance, safety and operational reliability.

Over time, reinforcement in the top panels of the cooling tower begin to corrode due to their exposure to fluctuating temperatures and weather conditions, causing pieces of concrete to flake away from the structure.

During the 18-month project, a total of 89m² of concrete repair was completed, with all cracked and spalled concrete removed and replaced. Corroded reinforcement materials were also replaced to restore strength and structural integrity.

Additionally, a cathodic protection system was installed, consisting of 4,881 sacrificial anodes to protect the tower’s reinforcement by allowing the anodes to corrode over time instead of the tower’s reinforcement. This method significantly extends the life of the cooling tower by ensuring that the reinforcement remains intact.

To provide further support to the tower, 1,620m of high strength cables were installed inside the concrete (a process known as post-tensioning). This provides additional tensile strength to the top two panels and ensures they’re more resilient to external forces such as wind, temperature changes and additional loads.

Project Manager, Craig Paterson says the success of this project has been a collective effort thanks to the ongoing dedication of many teams across site.

“A special thanks goes to station engineering, site services execution, site services operations, procurement and corporate engineering,” Craig says.

“At 116m tall, completing a refurbishment of this scale is no small feat. However, it’s an investment in the long-term safety, operational efficiency and reliability of our cooling towers, ensuring we can continue to safely generate energy for our customers.”



See the footage from the project, scan the QR code.



BRIGHT SPARKS WITH BRIGHT FUTURES

This year we have proudly welcomed seven new local apprentices and two trainees to Tarong power stations.

Our Apprenticeship and Trainee Program plays a key role in providing aspiring tradespeople and emerging professionals with the skills and experience needed for a successful career in the energy industry.

The budding Mechanical Fitters, Electricians and Boilermaker Apprentices, along with our Business and Supply Chain Trainees, have joined the Maintenance Operations, Site Services and Supply Chain departments to kick-start their program.

Mechanical Fitter Apprentices will rotate every six months through six different maintenance teams, and the Electrical Instrumentation Apprentices will rotate through the Electrical and Instrumentation teams over their five years.

Production Manager, Derick Boonzaaier emphasises the importance of skilled tradespeople in the successful day to day running of our operations.

“We’re particularly committed to offering employment opportunities to our local community, and the Apprentice and Trainee Program provides a fantastic avenue for individuals to begin their careers while acquiring valuable industry experience.”

“They’ll be exposed to a wide range of real-world scenarios, developing new skills and being mentored by our valued and experienced people across the power stations,” Derick says.

“We’re really excited to have them onboard!”





STAY INFORMED: JOIN OUR NOTIFICATION LIST

Join our notification list to receive timely updates about our planned activities to manage pests, hazard reduction burns and mine blasts.

Email southernengagements@stanwell.com to join the list. Your awareness and feedback help us ensure that we continue to operate responsibly and with respect for the people and environment around us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Stanwell Stakeholder Engagement Team.

 Call us on 0456 611 933, Monday to Friday. For urgent matters outside of business hours, please contact the Tarong Power Station Security Office at 4160 9260.

 Email us at southernengagements@stanwell.com. Whether it’s a quick enquiry or something more detailed, we’ll respond as quickly as possible.

