

snowyhydro

NEWS

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Murray 2 pipelines

A Great start

*Melinda Deas
Apprentice Administrator*



Snowy Hydro has taken on three new apprentices and six new trainees across the business this year.

There are many benefits gained by both the apprentices and trainees and by the company through our apprentice and trainee programs. As a business it highlights our commitment to learning and development and the growth of our people, which is vital if we are to enable them to adapt quickly to the constant changes we face.

From the apprentice and trainee perspective, it's great to see them develop and build their confidence during the course of their training and we often find that the skills learnt as part of their apprenticeship or traineeship provide a strong foundation for their future careers.

The Snowy Hydro apprentice and trainee programs include on and off the job training components and are a great stepping stone to get young people in our local community into the workforce.

The focus for our traineeships is to provide school leavers – particularly from the local area – with a first career step. We do advertise widely, but are especially pleased when

we can award traineeship positions to local school leavers. This is yet another example of the many indirect benefits a successful Snowy Hydro can bring to the local area, and we hope that the company can continue to offer programs like this despite the challenges we face in growing the business.

Our trainees work in the same business unit for the full year, with monthly training to deliver Certificates III and IV in Business. This year, we welcome Katie Adams, Alex Avis, Sarah Brooks, Lisa Deas, Mitchell Hope and Grace Ware to our traineeship program.

Our apprenticeships are open to everyone and we encourage a range of applicants including mature age applicants who may be looking for a new start or career change.

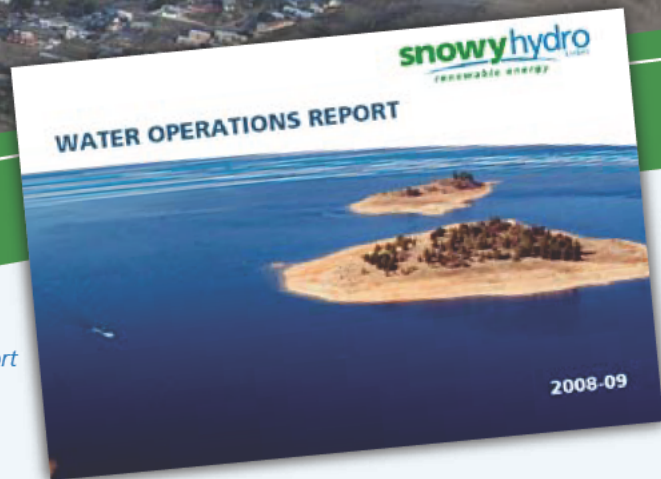
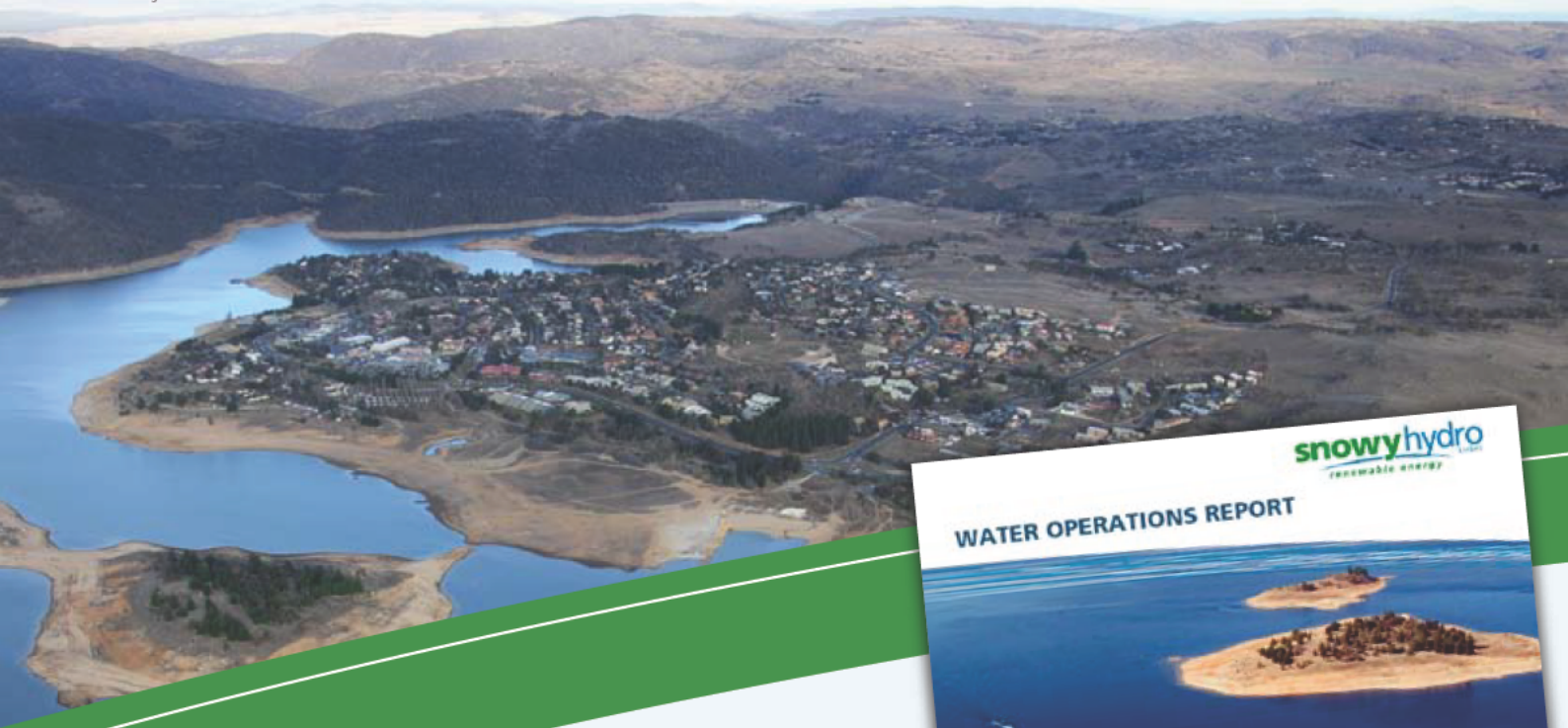
Often it is current Snowy Hydro employees who are interested in building their skills through an

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Snowy Hydro's 2010 Trainees





2008-09 Water Operations Report

apprenticeship and this year, in addition to our three new apprentices, we have three of our existing employees take on the challenge of a new apprenticeship, bringing our first year apprenticeship numbers to six.

Snowy Hydro apprenticeships are highly sought after and offer a wide scope of experience. The work varies according to work schedules but generally apprentices have the opportunity to work on turbines, generators, circuit breakers and transformers as part of ongoing maintenance, upgrades or project work.

This year we welcome Matthew Hollingsworth, Jessica McKenty and Peter Tudor to Snowy Hydro. These apprentices will work on location in Talbingo, Cabramurra, Jindabyne and Khancoban in either electrical or mechanical fields. The apprenticeships run for four years with off-site training completed through TAFE. With these new recruits, the total number of apprentices, from first to fourth year, working around the company is 24, with six others completing their apprenticeship during 2009 - 2010.

We are currently a major employer in the region and as such we appreciate the need for business and industry to support the community. We believe that through our apprentice and trainee programs we provide the local community, and young people in particular, with a variety of employment and development opportunities.

Snowy Hydro advertises traineeships and apprenticeships towards the end of the year. All job opportunities are listed on www.snowyhydro.com.au

Water Operations Report now available

*Andrew Nolan
Manager, Water*




I encourage the local community to take the opportunity to gain an improved understanding of water management and release obligations related to Snowy Hydro and the operations of the Snowy Scheme. The Snowy Hydro Water Operations Report describes, in plain English and summary form, how the Scheme

operates, the annual water operations and Snowy Hydro's obligations to the Snowy Water Licence.

The key highlights include details of water releases into the River Murray and Murrumbidgee River; environmental releases from Jindabyne Dam into the Snowy River and from Tantangara Dam into the Murrumbidgee River as well as the impact of the current drought sequence on inflows and lake levels and long term averages.

The impact of drought conditions and low inflows cannot be overlooked. The current 12-year drought sequence is worse than what the Snowy Scheme was ever intended to cope with. The historical records of annual inflows into the Snowy Scheme, from 1905, are characterised by high variability with annual inflows ranging from less than 700 gigalitres to well over 5500 gigalitres.

A now unprecedented dry inflow sequence that started in 1996-97 shows that in the past 12 years there has been only one year of slightly above average inflows.



Snowy River releases

**A megalitre (ML)
is equal to
one million litres.**

**A gigalitre (GL)
is equal to one
thousand megalitres
or
1 000 000 000 litres.**

The water year of 2006-07 saw the lowest ever recorded inflows - 683 gigalitres compared to the long term average annual inflows of around 2800 gigalitres. For the 2008-09 water year the inflows were still very much below average with 1821 gigalitre inflows.

Despite this situation, Snowy Hydro Limited has still been able to meet both its electricity and the stringent water obligations of the Snowy Water Licence.

Snowy Hydro's primary obligation under the Snowy Water Licence is to release a calculated volume of water annually to each of the River Murray and Murrumbidgee River catchments. Each of these volumes is calculated principally by reference to inflows. In drought years, like we are experiencing, the volume of water to be released from the Snowy Scheme is reduced under the formulae set out in the licence.

Snowy Hydro's rights to collect, divert, store and release water under the Snowy Water Licence in no way represent any form of ownership of the water. The calculation of the volume of water to be released from the Snowy Scheme each year to the River Murray and Murrumbidgee River catchments is prescribed by the Snowy Water Licence — it is not determined by Snowy Hydro.

The information in the report has been independently verified by NCS International using recognised assessment techniques based on the ISO 19011.

The auditor Stephen Lynch says that 'the report provides a fair representation of the required target volumes and Snowy Hydro Limited's water operations.'

The Snowy Hydro Water Operations Report is available as a PDF download on www.snowyhydro.com.au

Hard copies can also be obtained from the Snowy Hydro Information and Education Centre located in Cooma or at Murray 1 Power Station Visitor's Centre in Khancoban or call 1800 623 776.

Snowy River Releases

David Harris
Executive Officer Water

Snowy Hydro wants the local community to understand that the volume and timing of environmental flows into the Snowy River from Jindabyne Dam are decided solely by the NSW Office of Water, not Snowy Hydro.

Locals will be aware that in both January and February this year, there was a three-day 'high flow' release from Jindabyne Dam peaking at 870 megalitres per day.

The timing, volumes and dates for these releases were all prescribed unilaterally by the NSW Office of Water. Those directions mirrored the recommendations made

to the NSW Office of Water by the Snowy Scientific Committee. The NSW Office of Water is also responsible for advising the public and downstream landowners of changes in river levels in advance of these high flow events.

Many in the community have been wondering, 'just how much is 870 megalitres a day?' To put it into some context, it is the equivalent to almost an average week's worth of water used by the entire ACT and Queanbeyan.

The pictures above and below were taken during the increased releases. All releases from the Snowy Scheme are audited annually and reported in the Snowy Hydro Water Operations Report which is available as a downloadable PDF online at www.snowyhydro.com.au





Jounama Small Hydro



Assembling the 14MW generator

Olsens Road Temporary Closure

*Michael Thornton
Senior Project Manager*



Snowy Hydro and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (Kosciuszko National Park) wish to advise that Olsens Road (Geehi Dam Road) will be closed Monday – Saturday inclusive from 19 February to 31 May 2010.

Snowy Hydro is undertaking repair and maintenance work to Snowy Scheme assets in this area over the February to May period. This road closure is needed to ensure the safety of both the public and contractors working in the area.

The Olsens Road will be open for public access to Olsens Lookout and Geehi Dam only on Sundays from 6am to 6pm and over the Easter period from 6am Friday 2 April closing at 6pm on Monday 5 April.

Bushwalkers should also note that there will be no access to Siren Song and Lady Northcote during this period, in interests of safety.

If you have any questions relating to this road closure, please contact Snowy Hydro on 02 6453 2461 or email: communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au.

Some minor re-profiling at the contractor's compounds will be done once commissioning is complete. Revegetation of the site has commenced and will be progressively completed over the next month.

The new 11kV overhead power lines from the Jounama switchyard to the powerhouse have been completed. This also includes both 415V auxiliary power cables and optical fibre communication cables.

The new Jounama switchyard has been successfully commissioned and is now powering the spillway gates and power station auxiliary systems via these cables.

Jounama Small Hydro Project Update

*Peter Hill
Electrical & Mechanical
Construction Manager*



The diversion wall that protected the site throughout the construction of the power station has been successfully removed. The removal of the diversion wall has allowed the construction of the small tailbay to be completed and is ready for the commissioning of the hydro unit.

The bulk of the final profiling of the excavated earth and rock stockpiles has been completed, tying in the site to the surrounding landscape.

The auxiliary plant installation is complete. This includes the station ventilation system, station dewatering system, high voltage switchboard, low voltage power boards, control systems, ISC interfacing, protection system, oil hydraulic and lubrication systems. Pre-commissioning of these various systems is also complete and the final commissioning phase has commenced.

Once the commissioning phase is completed, the station will be brought into operational use by Snowy Hydro and put into





Mountain Pygmy Possum

commercial production as soon as possible. This project is a major milestone in Snowy Hydro's ongoing commitment to upgrading capacity and modernisation of the Snowy Scheme. At full capacity, the Jounama Station, can produce enough electricity to power more than 6000 homes.

An official opening is being planned for late April and a final project summary will be in our next newsletter.

Major upgrade for Guthega Power Station

Matt Elgey
Project Manger
Asset Modernisation



As part of Snowy Hydro's ongoing commitment to improve asset reliability and to upgrade the Snowy Scheme, Guthega Power Station is now undergoing a \$9 million upgrade as part of Snowy Hydro's Scheme Modernisation Project.

The Snowy Scheme Modernisation Project is a \$400 million, seven-year program to expand Scheme capability and improve efficiency and reliability of the power stations, controls systems and related infrastructure. The Guthega Power Station upgrade works, underlines the value and importance of the Guthega Power Station to the operations of the Scheme.

Works at Guthega have now commenced with Unit 1 being overhauled first. This is expected to take around six months to complete. Works on Unit 2 will start in 2011 and is expected to be completed within a six-month timeframe.

The project will require around 40 specialist staff including engineers, tradespeople and contractors.

Guthega Power Station is now fenced off to the public. The temporary fencing will remain in place for the duration of the works. Pedestrian access to the main range for bushwalkers and cross country skiers who use the area is available via the access bridge to Slinks Road. Recreational users should use the NPWS car park and the public are advised to following all safety and temporary directional signage near the area in the interests of safety.

Saving our Species

Mick Griffiths
Manager Environment



Snowy Hydro has a long term commitment to environmental initiatives in the Kosciuszko region including recovery programs for the endangered Mountain Pygmy Possum and Southern Corroboree Frog.

One of the key Snowy Hydro initiatives to support the programs is the sale of possum and frog soft toys at the Snowy Hydro Information and Education Centre, Cooma and at Murray 1 Power Station Visitor's Centre, Khancoban.

The soft toy fundraising program commenced in March 2002 and more than \$34,000 has been



The Guthega power station, unit 1 main inlet valve ready to be transported for off-site refurbishment



Above L-R: Inspector, Peter Jones; Captain Talbingo Brigade, John Scott; Tumut High Cadet Captain, Helen Russell; Snowy Hydro Area Manager, Maarten van der Stap; Talbingo Brigade member, Mark Cockburn; McAuley Catholic School Cadet, Steven Simmonds.

contributed to the program through this initiative and through other Snowy Hydro donations.

In December we handed over the latest proceeds, a cheque for \$2000, which was presented to Dr Linda Broome and Dr Dave Hunter from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

Dr Broome commented that DECCW was very appreciative of the commitment and support from Snowy Hydro and is hopeful that their generosity will encourage similar contributions from others in the corporate sector.

The Mountain Pygmy Possum and Southern Corroboree Frog soft toys are for sale at Snowy Hydro Information Centre, Cooma and Murray 1 Power Station, Khancoban. Priced at just \$4.95 each they're a great gift idea – for a very worthwhile cause.

Proactive approach to Bush Fires

Maarten van der Stap
Area Manager Tumut



The new year got off to a great start for the Tumut Region Rural Fire Service (RFS) when we presented them with a \$5000 cheque in January.

Snowy Hydro and the RFS have a long standing relationship working together through Local Emergency Management Committees, Bushfire Management Committees, and regional brigades.

Following the devastating Victorian Bushfires last year and with the 2003 Snowy Mountains Bushfires still fresh in our minds locally, Snowy Hydro has undertaken a significant review of bushfire protection zones around Scheme assets in the Snowy Mountains.

This review aimed to determine what vegetation clearance is required around Scheme assets and included an assessment on the best type of building structures.

Tumut RFS Inspector and Community Safety Officer, Mr Peter Jones, was extensively involved in this major review along with NPWS and Snowy Hydro personnel.

The support from the Tumut RFS has been invaluable in ensuring that Scheme assets, and in particular the Cabramurra Township, were well prepared for this summer and beyond. Peter Jones' advice and direction was critical in getting this job done and it's terrific to work with local experts on such an important task like this.

Mr Jones said "Snowy Hydro has been a long term supporter of the RFS in this region and we were happy to assist them in this review. We thank Snowy Hydro for this \$5,000 donation and it will go towards helping the Tumut RFS cadets with equipment, training and travel to compete in a national RFS competition."

Snowy Hydro Supporting Snowy Ride Kids Day

David Hogan
Manager Public Relations and Community Affairs



Snowy Hydro has been involved with Snowy Ride since the very first event, nine years ago.

In that time the Snowy Ride has become a major fundraiser for the Steven Walter Fund and the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia.

The Snowy Ride, held late last year attracted a record 3200 riders and raised over \$300,000, including a \$15,000 donation by Snowy Hydro.

Snowy Hydro CEO and Managing Director Terry Charlton presented \$15,000 to the Snowy Ride kids during the Kids Day activities at Charlotte Pass Resort.



Mr Charlton said, "Snowy Hydro strongly supports the Snowy Ride because this money goes directly towards research to finding a cure for childhood cancer and it is also a very successful regional tourism event".

Mr Charlton added, "Snowy Hydro's donation of \$15,000 to the Steven Walter Foundation is consistent with Snowy Hydro's strong support of significant and meaningful community partnerships that also include the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter and our Young Driver Training Program".

The Snowy Ride Kids Day has been running for six years and is held on the first day of the Snowy Ride. Children fighting cancer and their families are brought down to the Snowy Mountains for a weekend of relaxation, fun and excitement.

The Snowy Ride Kids Day is made possible through the support of a range of volunteers and groups such as the Honda GoldWing Club and Charlotte Pass Resort.

The Snowy Ride Kids Day is jointly sponsored by the NPWS and Snowy Hydro.

Mr Joe Collins, the Executive Chairman of the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia said "Snowy Hydro has been a long supporter of the Snowy Ride and we thank Snowy Hydro for their generosity and strong support."

Top Award for Upper Murray Challenge

*Mark Clayton
Area Manager Murray Region*



The Towong Shire Event for the Year Award was awarded to the Snowy Hydro Upper Murray Challenge as part of the Shire's 2010 Australia Day celebrations.

Now in its eight year, the one-day multi-sport event is regarded as one of Australia's most scenic, challenging and friendly races. The endurance event includes a 38km mountain bike ride, 26km paddle and a 25km run encompassing some of Australia's most beautiful but treacherous terrain.

Snowy Hydro has been a sponsor since the event's inception and is proud to be associated with an event that promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages visitors to the region and involves so many other community partners and stakeholders.

Peter Dikschei, founder and Race Director, accepted the award and said, 'we have developed excellent partnerships with Snowy Hydro, Upper Murray Health and Community Services, Towong and Tumbarumba Shires and that has allowed us to develop this amazing event that continues to draw visitors to the region for the benefit of local businesses.

Many people also return to train or take a relaxing holiday once they've 'discovered' the delights of the area.'

The race is open to individuals and relay teams and will be held on Saturday 2 October 2010. For further information or to register visit www.uppermurraychallenge.com.au

The best of the Snowy Mountains festivals and events

*Lesley Barlee
Information Centre
Officer, Khancoban*



Snowy Hydro is a major sponsor of the annual Jindabyne Flowing Festival and Dragon Boat Challenge, including the local Schools Challenge.

Our sponsorship enabled local schools to participate in the Dragon Boat Challenge with more than one hundred students from schools across the Snowy Mountains taking part.

Snowy Hydro also entered a team in the Community / Corporate Dragon Boat Races much to the enjoyment of the staff on the day. We couldn't emulate our success of two years ago and didn't make the finals this year.

Despite the wet weather, the event was a terrific success and



Community Partnerships



The 2009 Snowy Hydro SouthCare Gala Dinner was a great success

it highlighted the overwhelming popularity of the Dragon Boats as the drawcard for the festival and its popularity with both locals and visitors to the region.

Our compliments to the organisers and to all those who attended and participated on the day.

Snowy Hydro is also a major sponsor of TumbaFest at Tumarumba. This festival is a celebration of the terrific local food and wine scene in the Tumarumba District.

With large array of market stalls, rides for the kids, regional displays, top class entertainment and great food and wine, it was no surprise to see more than 5000 people flock to the 2010 TumbaFest.

Coming up is the Corryong Man from Snowy River Festival from 8-11 April and the Tumut Festival of the

Falling Leaf which again promises to be a highlight of the Snowy Mountains event calendar when Tumut celebrates the changing seasons from 23-25 April 2010.

For more information on the Corryong Man From Snowy River Festival, visit their website at www.bushfestival.com.au, and similarly for more information on the Tumut Festival of the Falling Leaf visit www.fallingleaffestival.org

Save the date and help save lives

*Lara McAuley
Public Relations and
Community Affairs*



The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Gala Dinner is on again and this year is shaping up to be another highlight on the social calendar for the NSW South East Region and ACT.

The charity gala dinner will be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra on Saturday 15 May 2010.

The theme this year is 'A Night in the Clouds' so get your friends and family booked in and prepare for a fantastic night of live entertainment, dancing and fun – and the best part is that it is all in aid of a great cause, the Snowy Hydro SouthCare Rescue Helicopter.

Why not get your colleagues, friends and family together and book a table?

The Snowy Hydro SouthCare Gala Dinner 'A Night in the Clouds'

When: Saturday 15 May 2010

Where: National Convention Centre, Canberra

Tickets: \$175 per person

For information or tickets call 02 6207 9923 or email info@snowyhydrosouthcare.com.au

All proceeds go towards keeping Snowy Hydro SouthCare in the air and saving lives in our region.

snowyhydro

To give us your feedback email communityfeedback@snowyhydro.com.au or for more information go to www.snowyhydro.com.au

2010 Dragon Boat Challenge

