

THIS WEEK 4 What's in a name



BOGONG POWER STATION

What's in a name?

Construction of AGL Energy's \$230 million Bogong Power Station is progressing rapidly. When complete it will provide an additional 140MW of emission free new renewable electricity each year.

McConnell Dowell which is building AGL's Bogong Hydro Generation Plant, is an international company which specialises in heavy civil infrastructure engineering projects. The company has a strong presence in Asia, New Zealand and the Pacific region. McConnell Dowell provided the successful tender for the construction of the \$230 million Bogong Power Station project. In the mid 90s McConnell Dowell was responsible for the construction of the Blue Mountains Sewerage Tunnel over 22kms with a diameter of 3.5m. It will also be responsible for all of the tunnels associated with the recently announced Sydney Desalination Plant. The McConnell Dowell website at www.mcconnelldowell.com lists an impressive array of projects around this country, NZ, South East Asia and Middle Asia.

Since early January this year, the McConnell Dowell team has steadily moved into town and activity on the sites has been constantly ramped up ever since to the point where there are now about 90 personnel working on the project in varying areas.

There are several key elements to the construction project.

The first is the large yard behind the Pyles Falls Creek Coach Services Terminal in Tawonga South. Here much of the material is sorted and made ready for transport to the site as it is required. This includes hundreds of metres of conveyor belt, metres and metres of railway line on assemblies, ready to put down for use. The Grub-Out machines and their conveyor trailers which will be used in the smaller 1.2km High Pressure Head Race Tunnel. One interesting item is the 'torpedo' looking unit mounted on a railway undercarriage. This is actually an agitator for taking concrete into the tunnel when shot-creting is required.

The next part of the site is the Bogong Village Power Station site, just beside the tennis courts, next to the Junction of the Rocky Valley Branch and the Pretty Valley Branch of the East Kiewa River. This is where the High Pressure Head Race Tunnel has been started for its 1.2km journey to meet up with the 90m drop shaft that will bring water from the Main Head Race Tunnel.



Caption: Jack Cottrell with daughter Joey (left) and Matt Synan with daughter Maddy and "Aurora Australis" the TBM

It is here at the Junction site that excavation is underway for the 30m (100') tall Power Station building which will house the two 70 megawatt turbines and a visitor viewing area. Once completed, the Power Station will be completely 'bunkered' (covered in soil) with only the access doors visible and the whole site will be revegetated.

During construction, the walking track around Lake Guy has been diverted and a viewing platform overlooking the works has been constructed.

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The major site is the old Commissioners Residence site, just above Bogong Village which is where a lot of the activity and interest is focused at the moment. This is where drilling has been underway in preparation for the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). Approximately 134 metres of tunnel has been carved out of the softer ground to reach the solid rock that the TBM needs to work in.

Back on the 20th May, the major components of the TBM machine were delivered to the site. The 50 tonne cutting head, the 65 tonne bearing assembly that supports the cutting head and the 87 tonne assembly that carries everything. Engineers from the German company Herrenknecht (who had recently refurbished the TBM) flew out and guided the process of putting the TBM together. Now we are getting closer to the TBM starting its 18 month, 6.5km journey. But, in typical tunnelling tradition, the TBM cannot start work until it has been named.



Caption: *Joey Cottrell's winning caricature*

AGL Hydro, the project managers, and McConnell Dowell initiated a competition among all the school children in the Alpine Shire to either name the TBM or to provide a caricature of the machine. The judging and results of this competition coincided with a day that McConnell Dowell invited all staff, their families and several invited guests to view the machine. Also invited were winners in the competition who were announced on the day by McConnell Dowell Senior Project Manager, Bruce Embery.

There were some great and original names. 'Wally Wombat the Bogong Borer' from Nathan Gunson of Myrtleford – because it is an Australian project and wombats are an Australian digging animal. 'Dora the Borer, from Jade Wilkinson of Tawonga – because men like to call their machines girl names and it rhymes. 'Tinga Bowga' from Kealey Ratzmann from Porepunkah – because Tinga Bowga is the aboriginal word for 'cut stone' (Kurnai Gunai language). My family is the only Koori family at the school and I thought it was

The winning name went to a young lady from Harrietville, Maddy Synan who named the TBM 'Aurora Australis – because Aurora Australis is the lights in the southern skies. The TBM will provide power to light the southern skies of Australia. For her prize winning entry Maddy will receive an ipod and her school will receive a \$750 voucher for excursion bus travel.

The 12 runners-up in the naming competition and the seven runners-up in the caricature competition will each receive some lovely corporate gear, a vest, beanie and pens. The winner in the caricature section was young Joey Cottrell who drew a great rock crunching, hole digging worm, ridden by one of the McConnell Dowell workers in his safety gear. For her efforts, Joey receives an ipod and her school will receive \$500 voucher for excursion bus travel.

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