

# Gas Lines Newsletter

## Autumn Edition

### 2014

#### Editors Note

Hi Everyone,

We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for the busy Autumn period. As we get into the cold and wetter months of the year, please remember to stay safe whilst on the roads and remember to stay warm to prevent you from getting colds and flu's.

Don't forget to send through any funny encounters, emails, jokes or photos that you would like to share to [hr@macgas.com.au](mailto:hr@macgas.com.au)

*I hope you enjoy the Autumn edition of Gas Lines.*

Natasha

#### In This Edition

- PAGE 2:** Directors Note
- PAGE 3:** A message from Operations Manager
- PAGE 4:** A message from Gas Networks Manager
- PAGE 5:** A message from Plumbing Manager
- PAGE 6:** A message from Civil Manager
- PAGE 7:** What's happening in Sydney & Wagga Wagga
- PAGE 8:** WHSE Update
- PAGE 9:** Thought of the Month
- PAGE 10:** Employee of the Quarter
- PAGE 11:** Interview with Murray Overton
- PAGE 12:** Recent Complimentary Letters & Recent Events
- PAGE 13-15:** Recent Events *continued*
- PAGE 16:** Employee Service Special
- PAGE 17:** Upcoming Events, Footy Tipping
- PAGE 18:** Quote of the Month & Joke of the Month

#### Birthdays

##### Employee's

###### March

Daniel Collins  
Michael Robertson

###### April

Sarah English  
Katrina Overton  
Alejandra Sanchez

###### May

Mark Dawson  
Stephen Kearnes  
Mark Ogilvie  
Amy Wheatland  
Kristina Zimroz

##### Contractor's

###### March

Andrew Collins  
Fellice Pollicina

###### April

Hilall El Masri  
Michael Naylor

###### May

Artem Gummenoy



#### Toolbox Talks

**IMPORTANT: If you haven't read any of these toolbox talks please speak to your Supervisor or contact HR to obtain a copy.**

- TBT# 35 - Safe use of Hand Tools
- TBT# 36 - Importance of wearing Safety Glasses
- TBT# 37 – APA Networks Matrix

*Well it's been a busy start to the year for Mac Gas, and the road ahead is looking exciting.*



It's very satisfying to view the business from my position and be able to see the hard work of the last year or two starting to pay off, the biggest being the change in attitude of the whole business from re-active to pro-active. That's not to say there aren't still substantial challenges ahead, but we have a very different approach to these now, one that is much more controlled!

I'd like to acknowledge all our Department Managers for their support and perseverance throughout the continual challenges of the QMS implementation, reviews and audits, whilst improving their Departments performance.

We have seen Neil Lamb experience a baptism of fire, taking over the reins of managing the Construction/R&M contract, along with maintaining the management of his existing Australian Utilities Maintenance responsibilities

I personally appreciate the effort and results being achieved by Neil, and I know my thoughts are echoed by our client also.

Our safety performance for the start of the year has been good, and as with many other aspects of our business I have seen an improvement in our approach to investigating incidents, exposing underlying safety issues, and taking appropriate steps to rid the business of unsafe practices. Key to our safety performance is you! You have the ultimate ability (and responsibility) to stop any activity that is unsafe or where appropriate controls have not been put in place to mitigate the risk. We provide you the PPE and the training, but only you can ensure the safe task execution – If in doubt, stop and ask.

Thanks to all those who participated in the Shave for a Cure, a big effort for a great cause and don't we all just love those photos!! You might see a lot more of these photos and others on our NEW website which is currently in development.

We all come to work to support our life goals, so you may as well enjoy it as best you can but above all ensure you finish each day the way you started, give yourself the best chance of enjoying what you are working for.

Enjoy your newsletter, and feel free to contribute.

Chris O'Keefe

# A message from Senior Manager Tony Ussia



Hi Everyone,

I Hope this message finds you and your families well.

The official "silly season" has commenced. As the years pass Mac Gas have improved the way we manage the increase of work as we are prepared in advance compared to the years gone by. The reason it called "silly season" is because work volume increases dramatically due to people trying to keep warm in these cold months and the asset owners increasing the gas pressure in the mains causing them to leak, this in turn keeps both our Construction and R&M crews busy during this period.

As predicted work in the Civil area is now on the increase. We currently have Mac 1 and Mac 2 working in difficult conditions on the 500mm high pressure trunk main at Hexham. Our new replacement for Romy Eldahr is Fred who has been assigned to this Hexham Project and even though Fred is fresh in the team, he is gaining the respect from both Mac Gas personnel and external clients.

Sal married his sweetheart Stephanie and I was fortunate to attend his wedding which was a night to remember. Sal is now back at work and is ready to move into the next step of his working life.

Mac Gas has worked hard to win a tender in the Riverina that will keep both Peter Magnone and Mick Cownie very busy during the next financial year. Peter has worked very hard over the past twelve months to expose the locals to the Mac Gas culture, which has proven to be a success.

Please remember whilst you are working in this cold inclement part of the year we all may feel a bit down at times, but don't forget that it may not be only you, you may have a family at home that may be feeling down and needs your support. Please remember that Macarthur Gas and your managers are always happy to help where possible, so if you need anything feel free to speak to them at any time.

Stay safe, work as a team & stay safe out there.

*Anthony Ussia*

# A message from Gas Networks Manager Neil Lamb



There have been several changes made to our department since our last bulletin and we would like to wish Nathan Garard all the best in his future endeavours. Nathan has recently left AUM to take up a role with JLL as a building supervisor in commercial fit out. We would like to thank Nathan for his efforts over the past 3 years and wish him every success with his career advancement.

We would also like to welcome on board Alexandra Sanchez who has taken over as the water meter planner. Alexandra is proving to be an efficient and well organised employee and appears to be self driven. Keep up the good work Alexandra.

As we are all aware we are coming into the winter season and historically the busiest period of the year. Macarthur Gas is currently developing new systems to expedite the transfer of job packs in a more efficient manner between the office and the field to assist with flow of documentation from creation to finalisation. We hope to have these improved systems up and running within the next month or two and we will keep you posted with our progress.

Along with the winter period comes the flu, it is important to look after your health during this period so please take all precautions including flu vaccinations where required.

Approximately 5 months has passed since I have taken on the role of Gas Networks Manager, whilst there is still ample of work and improvements to be made I believe that we have vastly improved our processes and streamlined several key points to ensure that we are capturing in particular our financial objectives. We are all going through ongoing education around the new contract terms and conditions however I believe that we are progressing in a positive manner. I would like to give special thanks to the R&M/ Construction team whom have all assisted to the best of their ability during this transition period.

Leakage Survey works are ongoing and our team of technicians are now currently working within the regional areas of NSW. Our team of competent technicians spend extended time away from family and friends and at times this can be an extremely lonely task. We thank our leakage survey guys for their own going efforts.

Macarthur Gas have recently commenced a program of upgrading Jemena MDL's from the 2G to the 3G network. This will be an ongoing program under the control of Brad Whitaker with our technician Peter Watt performing the installations. Whilst the works are in their initial stages we believe the program will flow smoothly and the planned outcomes for time and quality will be achieved.

Over the coming month we will be performing the initial contract review phase and we look forward to working alongside ZNX with the vision of continuing the contract works well into the future

Until the next issue please be safe and healthy.

Neil Lamb



# A message from Plumbing Manager Murray Overton

The year has certainly kicked off with a bang. We are already booking work in for June and fitting work in before the end of the financial year. I can't remember having such a busy start to the year.

We have managed to schedule in a number of commercial jobs in between our school heater servicing, which include completing a 250m private main at Macquarie University, a private mains extension at Sydney Olympic Park and a 200m 110mm main diversion at UWS Campbelltown, along with the commencement of stage 2 of Edensor Park Medical Centre.

We have been given further zones from Department of Commerce which takes our total to 9 out of the 10 zones they look after, (approximately 225 schools). This is a huge achievement for the entire plumbing department from admin to field staff. Everyone should be proud of the work they have carried out and the positive results and feedback it has generated, I know I am.

We have recently completed a quote for AGL to carry out a boiler installation and also a couple of small industrial gas jobs for Core Gas that we are hoping will lead to further work in these fairly new fields for us. Boiler installations and industrial gas reticulation are fields we have always worked alongside, but have never been heavily involved with. This will hopefully bring some exciting new opportunities our way.

I have spent a lot of time in the last couple of months out on the tools with the plumbers as a result of this huge work load. I have enjoyed spending time with them and not only teaching them a few things but learning a few things off them myself.

Our Plumbing team is an asset to Macarthur Gas, which has grown as a result to everyone's hard work and commitment. I am proud of the whole team for their efforts and I look forward to the experiences we will have throughout 2014.

Murray Overton



# A message Civil Manager Sal Khachan

## ***Happy Easter Everybody,***

The Civil Department hopes that you all enjoyed your Easter and Anzac Day breaks.

Finally we have the Hexham project well and truly underway, and I would like to commend Steve (McDiarmid) Hodder for his efforts along with Fred Ghaby in steering the ship to get this project rolling on. It has been a difficult project at times but all the crews up there have been doing a tremendous effort so far to get us to the stage that we are at now. This project has been a big learning experience for our team as it is the first time we have worked on any Leighton's sites and we now have a far better understanding of the level of attention to detail in terms of WHS&E to work on their sites.

As I believe Tony has already mentioned, Fred has been a wonderful asset to the team. With myself on Holiday's and Romy's resignation Fred was thrown into the deep end to keep the Hexham project on track. He has done a great job of this and we have received lots of praise from UHVA and Leighton's for the hard effort he puts in.

Thank you for your time!

Sal Khachan





## Sydney

### **Eveleigh Farmers Market**

Every Saturday till 1pm  
245 Wilson St, Eveleigh

### **Bondi Farmers Market**

Every Saturday  
Bondi Public School

### **10th Annual Sydney Comedy Festival**

Showing at various venues up until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### **Strictly Ballroom The Musical**

Sydney Lyric Theatre  
Showing Until 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**For more info on these  
Events and other events visit:**

[www.waggawaggaustralia.com.au](http://www.waggawaggaustralia.com.au)

[www.sydney.com/events](http://www.sydney.com/events)

## Wagga Wagga

### **Little Aussie Cinema**

Monthly on the 1st Saturday  
Sat 01 Mar 2014  
Tarcutta Soldiers Memorial Hall  
Sydney Street

### **Sunday Markets**

Every Week on Sunday until  
Sun 28 Dec 2014  
Myer Carpark, O'Reilly Street

### **Eat Local Thursday**

Thu 08 May, Thu 15 May,  
Thu 22 May, Thu 29 May, Thu 05 Jun  
Murrumbidgee Turf Club  
Travers Street, Wagga Wagga



## Jemena Operation & Construction Field Manuals

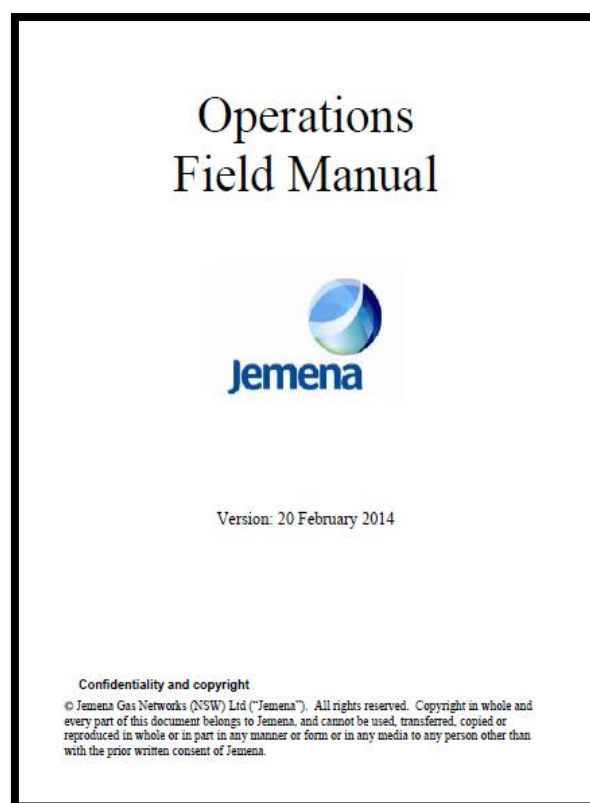
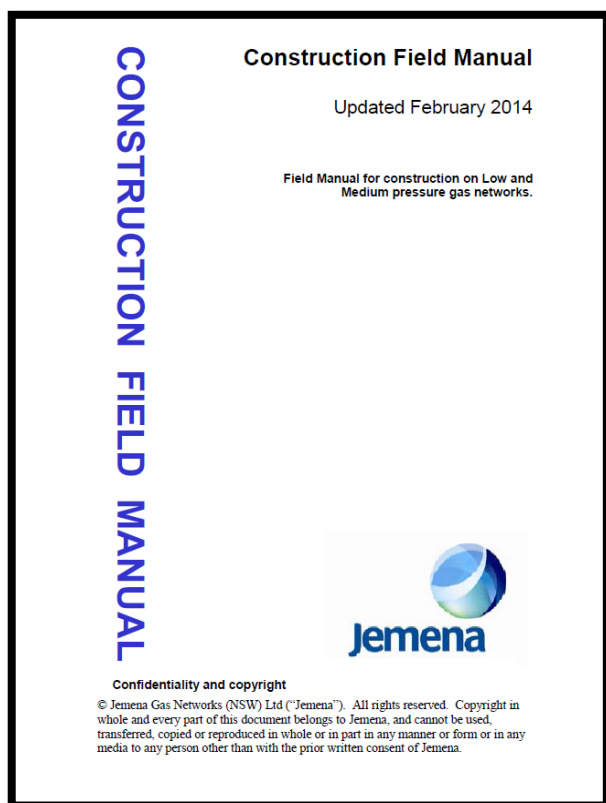
Recently we issued updates for the **Jemena Operation** and **Construction Field Manuals**.

Please be reminded that these manuals have been designed and issued to you for a purpose, and you are encouraged to refer to them at all times.

You will find a **changes list** at the beginning of your manual which outlines what sections have been changed and updated.

If you have any questions about the updates or the manuals in general please feel free to contact your Supervisor/Manager or Vanessa – Business Support Supervisor

On 8786 3800 or [vanessa@macgas.com.au](mailto:vanessa@macgas.com.au)





## PPE is the last line of protection between the person and a potential hazard

The NSW WHS Act 2011 addresses the "Duty of Care" of all employers. An important aspect of this is the need for employers to provide adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and whatever else is necessary on any work-site to ensure that the risk of injury to those working on or, visiting the work-site is eliminated, by good Health & Safety Management Practice.

All personnel on a work site are personally responsible at law to ensure they properly use Personal Protective Equipment

PPE is the last line of protection between the person and a potential hazard. Prior to utilising any PPE it must be thoroughly examined by the user to satisfy themselves that it is both functional and appropriate for the task being undertaken. **Where there is any doubt direction must be sought from the immediate supervisor/manager.**

**It is important that you ensure the following PPE is worn at all times where required;**

### Clothing

All persons, (including visitors) entering the work-site are expected to wear appropriate clothing when entering a work-site. "Appropriate" shall take into consideration all relevant factors, including inclement weather (including sun), workplace hazards, etc.

### Head Protection

All persons (including visitors) entering the work-site, that is, enters a designated "hard hat" area, shall wear a safety helmet complying with Australian Standard 1800-1981 and 1801-1981. Providing that overhead activities are not in progress, hard hats are not required.

### Footwear

All persons shall wear steel-capped safety footwear approved in accordance with Australian Standard, AS 2210-1980, and must be in good condition at all times.

### Eye protection

- All persons performing any activity which may cause an injury to the eyes must wear approved eye-protection in the form of safety glasses, goggles, or face shields, as appropriate
- All persons while grinding, cutting, or drilling must wear approved safety goggles This includes personnel assisting in any of these activities;

### Hand Protection

- Gloves shall not be worn when using or when near any person using power tools, machinery or equipment that has moving components.
- Gloves of suitable type shall be worn when handling metal, hot objects, welding etc. where injury to the hands could occur.



Safety Glasses



Safety Shoes



FR Clothing



Hard Hat



V-Rated Gloves

# Contractor & Employee of the Quarter



Congratulations to *Mick Cowrie* who has been awarded "Contractor of the Quarter".

Mick has been working under extreme pressure over the last couple of months, however without any hesitation he has been assisting and mentoring new employees.

Mick has been a wonderful ambassador for Mac Gas. He has worked hard to understand and meet client requirements along with displaying a high level of professionalism for our company.

*Congratulations to Mick on his outstanding achievement.*



Congratulations to *Katrina Overton* from the Plumbing Department who has been awarded "Employee of the Quarter".

Katrina has been a valuable part of the plumbing department over the last couple of months. She has been commended by our clients about her outstanding work ethic, effort and dedication.

*Congratulations to Katrina on her outstanding achievement.*



**Don't forget ANYONE can vote for ANYONE as employee/contractor of the quarter.**

To vote for the next employee of the quarter please complete the "*Employee of the Quarter Nomination form*" MCG-FOR-002F V.1. If you don't have access to this form you can email Natasha at [hr@macgas.com.au](mailto:hr@macgas.com.au) Or call her on 02 8786 3800.

## Interview with Murray Overton

Murray commenced working at Macarthur Gas as Plumber/Gas Fitter in 2003 (Completing his apprenticeship beforehand with AGL). After a couple of years he became a leading hand plumber, supervisor and is now the Plumbing Manager. During his time at Mac Gas Murray has shown to be a very loyal, dedicated and hard working individual that always strives to accomplish the best possible results for him and his team.

*Below are some facts about Murray;*

**Name:** Murray Overton

**Age:** 42

**Interests & Hobbies:** Guitar, drums & surfing (when my daughter's schedules allow it)

**Favourite Food:** Good old fashioned baked dinner

**Favourite Drink:** Corona

**Favourite Football Team:** West Tigers

**Favourite Travel Destination:** Disney Land

**Favourite Movie:** At the moment – Seven Psychopaths

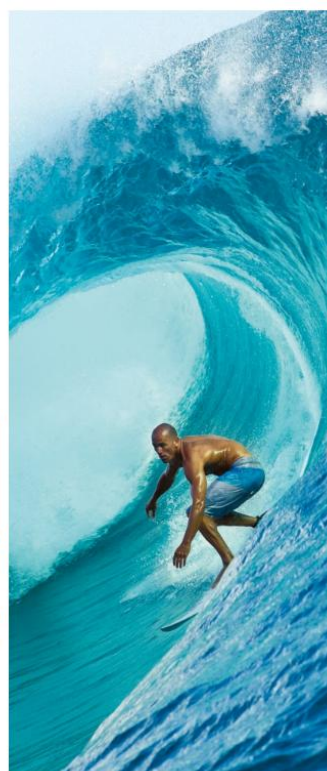
**Pick one word that best describes you:** Hard Working

**Where did you grow up?** Lakemba

**What is your 5 year plan?** See my eldest daughter get into Uni at The Conservatory of Music when she leaves high school in a couple of years. Travel more with my family!

**What celebrity would you choose to have dinner with and why?** Dave Grohl. To talk to him about his music, past, present and future

**What do you like the most about working at Mac Gas?** The friendly and easy going atmosphere





## Recent Complimentary Letters



Hi Guys,

*I just wanted to let you know that Cassie has been a great help this week in Okhan's absence. She is efficient and friendly and a pleasure to deal with and has helped me a lot this week. Please don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Okhan, he's great too, as is Gokhan. But I know how hard it is when you are filling in for someone else while also trying to maintain your own workload. I believe in "credit where credit is due" and just wanted to pass on my appreciation, as people often tend only to pass on negative feedback. I'm not sure who Cassie directly reports to; if it isn't any of you, please pass on my feedback to them also. Please make Cassie aware that her efforts have not gone unnoticed*

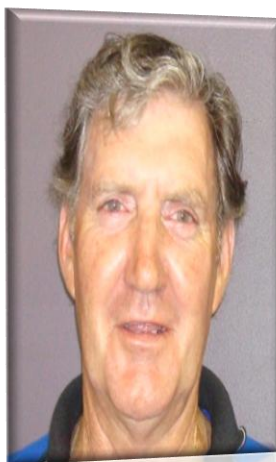
That's all!

Thanks, Lorraine McElhone

## Recent Events

We would like to take this opportunity to farewell **Graham Collins, Karen Kobersy Monique Close & Nathan Garard** who have recently left Mac Gas.

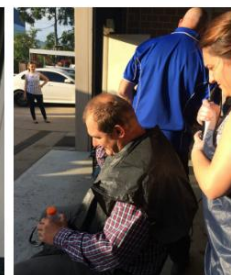
*We wish them all the best with their future endeavours.*





On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Macarthur Gas held a "Shave for a Cure" breakfast and lunch to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.

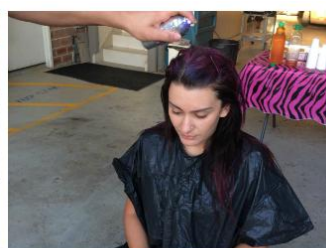
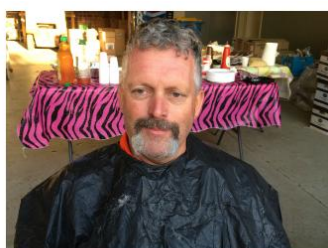
The Leukaemia Foundation raises about half the money they need to fund its important work providing support to people with blood cancer, as well as millions in research.



Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
SHAVE**

Thank you to all Mac Gas personnel who contributed to the World's Greatest Shave by donating money, shaving and colouring their hair/beard and being a part of this event.



Mac Gas  
Raised a Total  
of

**\$2237.30**

**Thank You ☺**

And the winner for the Mac Gas Easter Egg Competition is....

**BEVAN MCWHA**



Congratulations to **Bevan** who guessed the closest guess of Easter Eggs.

There was a total of **434** Easter Eggs in the Jar, Bevan guessed **432**.



Congratulations to Sal Khachan & his beautiful wife Steph who got married in March. On behalf of Macarthur Gas we would like to wish you both a lifetime of love, happiness, and precious memories.





# 10 Year Club Outing..



On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Members of the

*10 Year club*

ventured for a night out in the  
city.

They started their night with  
afew drinks and dinner at the  
Albion Place hotel in Sydney  
following a hilarious comedy  
show with Chopper Read.

***Thankyou to all who attended.***





Safety Integrity Teamwork Enjoyment

2/17 Hargraves Place  
Wetherill Park NSW 2164

## WINTER SERVICE

### GAS FITTING, PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE

#### Room Heater Servicing and Installation

- Full clean and service of your portable room heater
  - All makes and models
  - LPG and Natural Gas conversions
  - Appliance Installation
  - Hot Water Installation
- Plumbing Repair and Maintenance Service
- Installation of Natural Gas and LP Gas Systems



## SPECIAL SERVICE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

**WAS \$130.00 – NOW \$60.00**

- Includes general cleaning of heater, pressure test and leak test.
  - Only on workshop service (parts not included)
  - For a limited time only
  - Conditions apply

**FOR EXPERT ADVICE PLEASE ASK STAFF AT THE PLUMBING DEPARTMENT AND  
BOOK IN YOUR HEATER FOR A SERVICE OR INSTALLATION TODAY!**



Upcoming Events & Public Holidays

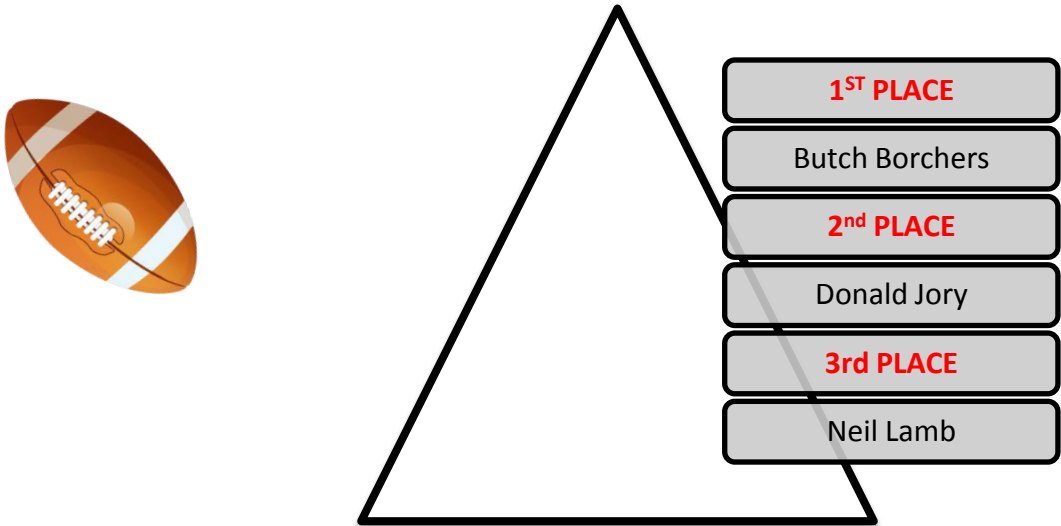
Queen's Birthday – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Mothers Day – Sunday May 11th 2014



Footy Tipping

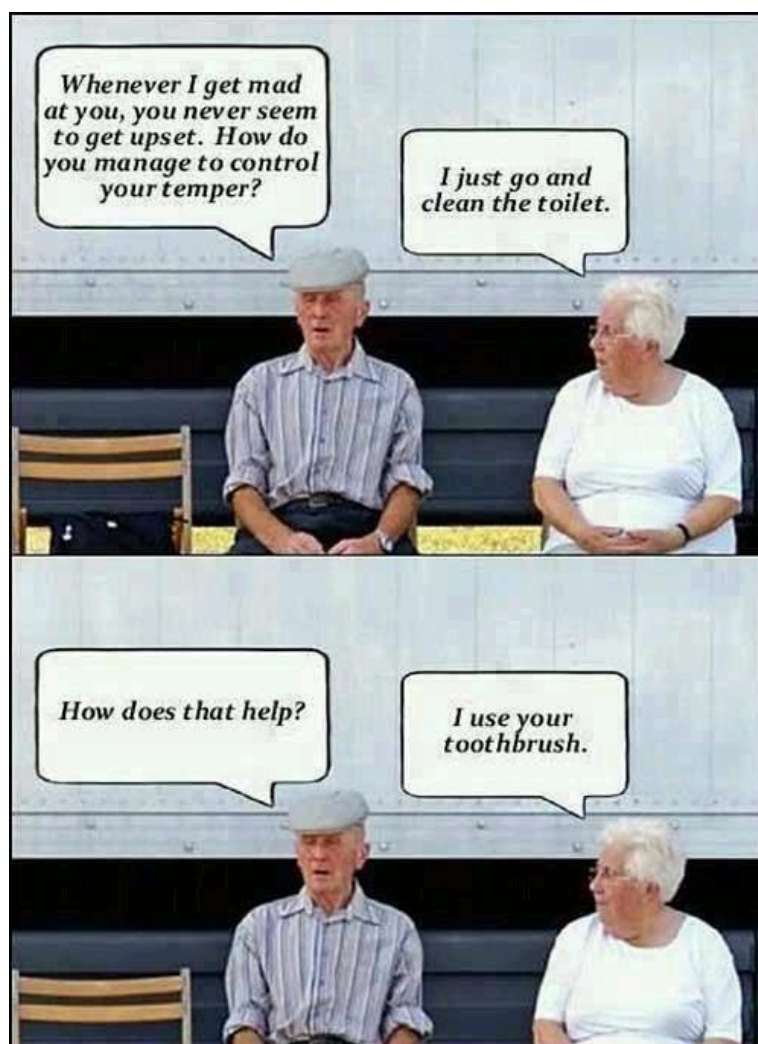
Current standings for MacGas Footy Competition as at the end of Round 9.



## Quote of the Month

**You can't have a good day with a bad attitude, and you can't have a bad day with a good attitude.**

## Joke of the Month



Macarthur Gas Pty Ltd  
Gas Lines Newsletter  
**Autumn Edition 2014**



**Created by**  
Natasha Nedanovska