

## BUSHLIGHT ACHIEVES NEW MILESTONE

Bushlight achieved a significant milestone in July 2008 with the commissioning of a Bushlight system at Ulpanyali community, in Central Australia (see story below). The commissioning of this 120 Volt PS1 system marked the 100th community in which Bushlight has developed Community Energy Plans and installed Renewable Energy (RE) systems. Bushlight has now provided clean, cost-effective and reliable power to:

- 102 homeland communities throughout northern and central Australia
- Over 300 households
- Approximately 1,400 permanent residents

## FOCUS ON COMMUNITY - ULPANYALI AND BUSHLIGHT'S 100TH COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

Ulpanyali is located beside Kings Canyon 325 kms south west of Alice Springs. Ulpanyali is home to about 30 Luritja-speaking residents, including Julie and Stephen Clyne who are the Traditional Owners (TOs) of the land on which the community is located. Members of the Clyne family are also TOs for part of Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park and they chose to contribute some of their 'gate money' or royalty income to the procurement of the Bushlight system. This process was administered by Central Land Council.

The Community Energy Planning (CEP) process began in November 2007 with an initial meeting with the whole community to introduce Bushlight to the residents and to discuss the planning process. During four separate meetings information was shared and a relationship built between Ulpanyali residents and Bushlight. This helped Bushlight to fully understand the community's energy needs, and assisted the community to make informed decisions about their future power supply.

Once there was agreement that a renewable energy system was the best solution for residents, a 'daily energy budget' was established for each house and building. This information was then used to design the system. The Ulpanyali Bushlight system has been designed to provide power to five houses, four shelters, an ablution block and a workshop.

At the time of the CEP meetings residents stated that their vision for the future of the community was to ensure the community had an adequate and reliable power supply through renewable energy and to participate in the development and management of Watarrka National Park. In addition, residents stated that they would like to improve on their sustainable economic development projects, such as the existing art centre and market garden.

Immediately after the system was installed the Bushlight team provided training to the community on basic system operation and maintenance, demand side management and troubleshooting. Bushlight also provided to each household their 'Community Energy Plan' which documents the entire process and sets out what was agreed upon by each party along the way. In addition to regular maintenance visits, the Bushlight regional team will continue to visit Ulpanyali about every 3 months over the next year to check the system and provide more training if necessary. After the first year an annual visit will be made to the community.



The Bushlight solar array at Ulpanyali



The battery bank at Ulpanyali



Bushlight's David Donnelly training Ulpanyali residents

### NEW BUSHLIGHT TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

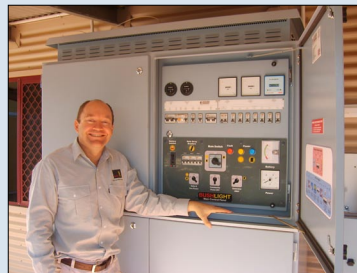


Outgoing Technical Services Manager Paul Coull

Bushlight bid farewell to Paul Coull in August 2008. Paul was with the project for three years, first as an RE System Designer, and more recently as Bushlight Technical Services Manager. Paul has made a huge contribution to the technical development of our RE systems over the course of his involvement with the project. We wish him all the best with his pursuits back home in Tasmania.

David Donnelly has replaced Paul in the role of Bushlight Technical Services Manager. David joined the Bushlight team in January 2007 as a Technical Officer - RE System Designer and we are lucky to be able to draw on his

considerable skills in his new role. David completed his formal RE training as an external student at Murdoch University and prior to that worked as a contractor designing and installing small solar systems in holiday homes and telecommunications sites in remote locations. David will be focused on continuing to offer innovative technical solutions to meet the needs of our stakeholders.



Bushlight's Technical Services Manager David Donnelly

### USER INTERFACE DECALS - A NEW APPROACH

Bushlight is now in its seventh year of operation. An important aspect of the project is that we endeavour to constantly improve the processes, resources and hardware on which the success of the project depends. Most recently this has meant reviewing our approach to the materials used for our decals. Each Bushlight system has a user-friendly interface on the main control panel. The materials, adhesives and finishing used for all of these decals have varied over time as we field test and improve our approach to the provision of hardy, high quality decals. Bushlight has been

using a strong polypropylene and adhesive for the main escutcheon decal. Some of the extreme temperatures that occur in many of the communities we work in has meant that on occasion some of the decals have started to shrink and lift off from the escutcheon. To address this issue, in May 2008 Bushlight began using a strong aluminium composite board riveted onto the escutcheon for all main escutcheon decals, system identification decals, and the Start Up—Shut Down decal for all community systems. All new systems will include these decals and our contractors are busy retrofitting them onto all our older systems.



The new escutcheon interface made from durable composite board to prevent peeling



All previous vinyl decals are being replaced by aluminium composite board

**Bushlight Administration**  
PO Box 8044  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8951 4342  
Fax: (08) 8951 4333  
enquiries@bushlight.org.au

**Bushlight Central Australia**  
32-38 Priest St  
PO Box 8044  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871  
Phone: (08) 8951 4331  
Fax: (08) 8951 4333  
rmcentral@bushlight.org.au

**Bushlight North Queensland**  
7/330 Sheridan St  
PO Box 6182  
CAIRNS QLD 4870  
Phone: (07) 4031 0505  
Fax: (07) 4031 0431  
rm Cairns@bushlight.org.au

**Bushlight Top End**  
Suite 2/20 Knuckey St  
GPO Box 2875  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Phone: (08) 8981 8706  
Fax: (08) 8981 7233  
rmtopend@bushlight.org.au

**Bushlight Kimberley WA**  
3/68 Clarendon St  
PO Box 1304  
DERBY WA 6728  
Phone: (08) 9191 2585  
Fax: (08) 9191 2598  
rmderby@bushlight.org.au