

The Year Wraps Up

As 2013 comes to a close we cast our minds back over the previous months. It has been another busy year with its share of challenges, but it has also been a year of great achievements and rewards.

To all our customers, vendors and business associates,

At this holiday season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. We thank you for allowing us to be an integral part of your businesses and lives.

May the coming holiday season be all wrapped up with cheer and filled with celebration for the New Year.

From all at Pakton



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Editors Note

Firstly I want to apologise for the absence of a newsletter in September. The September issue was to be themed 'All Things Young'. Now, I must say that all Pakton staff are young! I like this quote that I saw somewhere recently: "I am young at heart, too bad about the other parts."

Pakton has hosted a great many young (younger than me) people: high school and university students and graduates. There is something about being amongst young people - their thirst for knowledge and their curiosity about their environment and how things work. The roles they take on at Pakton are often part time and junior in nature so inevitably, and understandably, sooner or later, they move on. Pakton is one small space on this planet and there is much to learn and experience in the world. They get curious. It is sad but exciting to see them explore other places and gain new experiences; to watch them grow and mature.

It may be coincidence, but there seems to have been a number 'dropping in' to say, "Hi!" in the last few weeks. It is great to catch up on where their lives have taken them since Pakton. Then there are the older than young. We celebrate and remember them all.

But, now it is the Christmas and New Year Season and, as another year comes to a close, we are inspired to think about the year, reflecting on the highlights and all those involved. Aahhh.... Another satisfying topic.

..... 'Til next year.....

Season's Greetings!

Kayleen

Admin Asks..

Please take time to check your stock.



2014 is just around the corner and production planning for its early months is already underway.

Review your product needs for April to June 2014. We appreciate your early orders or estimates of your needs for this period as soon as possible.

Power Probe Queen

Jeanette Kelly is our longest serving employee and amongst our oldest (in number only). She has worked in a part time capacity for Pakton since its earliest days. Her first job was to help solder and assemble the original model Pakton Electric Fence Power Probe ® and she still works as a production assistant, assembling product. She was also our first storeperson. Now known as the Power

Probe Queen, most of the Power Probes produced have been, and are, assembled by Jeanette.

She has taken time off to travel now and again but her long service at Pakton has recently been acknowledged and rewarded with Long Service Leave entitlements. We are all looking forward to joining her in celebrating her 70th Birthday in December.... and her continued service at Pakton.



Jeanette is our longest serving employee.

Pakton Bursary

Pakton's Bursary recipient for 2013 is Matthew Scott. Each year since 2010 Pakton has offered a \$500 bursary to a deserving student from Narangba Valley State High School. Bursary applicants have to demonstrate an interest in electronics and be accepted into a tertiary electronics course on graduating from High School. Previous recipients, Alex Gilmour and Travers Mills, work part time at Pakton while undertaking their

university studies, although Alex completed his university studies in November and already has a job offer for 2014. Travers has just completed his second year of university. We look forward to having Matthew on staff and wish him well with his university studies in 2014. Travers.



20 years

Pakton's Electric Fence Power Probe® celebrated its 20th birthday this year. In September 1993 the Power Probe won the Farm Inventor of the Year competition at Toowoomba's Ag-show. It became commercially available in 1995 and won more awards in Australia, NZ and Canada. It remains a market leading electric fence fault finder.



Quality Fund Raising

Len Weatherley is another of our young at heart part time employees. When Pakton production gets busy, Len is called in to give a helping hand. Len is a busy and active retiree. He is a bike rider and inspired, at least one of us, Alex Knight, to join him on his fundraising ride for Camp Quality. The Camp Quality website provides this explanation of who they are: "Camp Quality is a children's family cancer charity. Our purpose is to create a better life for every child living

with cancer in Australia." Pakton sponsored Len and Alex who took a 15 kilometre bicycle journey to raise money for this worthy cause. Kayleen was there to congratulate them at the finish line.

Jeanette was also busy on the same day, taking a 5 kilometre walk for the *Jetty to Jetty* charity fundraiser. Pakton also sponsored Jeanette for her 5km walk for charity. "Well done" to our energetic and generous young-at-heart! Other charities have been supported

less energetically throughout the year.

Alex and Glenn Keir have supported the Movember fundraiser, although they have bent the rules a little, Rather than *start* growing a moustache for the month of November, Glenn opted to *lose* his mo' for November and Alex shaved his beard to reveal a very distinguished moustache for the month. Generous donations and support were offered.



Len, Kayleen and Alex (pictured left to right) at the Camp Quality fundraising event.



Kayleen snaps Jeanette at the end of her 5km fundraising walk.



Alex's shave to reveal the 'MO'.

Pakton Vision Statement: To be an efficient OEM manufacturer of innovative electronic products that is known in electronics manufacturing circles for its high quality and technical excellence.

Pakton Mission Statement: To provide an OEM source of *CLEVER PRODUCTS MADE EXTREMELY WELL* supported by EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE EXCEEDING CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS.

Pakton Values: Harmony, Humility, Honesty

Young at Heart

What do a “Camp Quality” fundraiser, a school student on work experience, university students stressing about final year thesis projects and assignments and bursary applicant interviews all have in common? Young People.

As we reminisced over the events of the previous months, this focus on young people inspired the theme of the newsletter. Pakton has long been an advocate for young people. Paul Thompson, founder, owner, CEO and head engineer at Pakton Technologies, regards the fostering of young engineers as important. Kayleen Thompson, owner and manager of Pakton, is an ex-teacher and believes in the potential of young people. Through Pakton Technologies they can provide opportunities for young people through the offer of employment, learning and practical experience.

University Engineering Students are employed by Pakton with the purpose of providing them with practical experience to compliment their university studies. They experience elec-

tronics from the manufacturing end as they start work in production and soldering. Ultimately they become assistants to the engineering team putting into practice the theory learned at university and the experience they have acquired in production. Three of our university students have graduated to full time employment at Pakton; Michael Schaefer and Matthew Hulbert both transitioned from part time work at Pakton to full time engineers on graduation from engineering courses. Phil Suthers began with Pakton while at high school, worked part time while at University and took up a full time engineering role on graduation. Many other university students, usually engineering students, have worked at Pakton to help pay their way through university.

Our local high school, Narangba Valley State High School, also features strongly at Pakton. Kayleen was a teacher there in its founding year, 2000. Paul and Kayleen's children, Ben and Dale, attended it. No less than twelve students from NVSHS have worked at Pakton, some in part

time after-school jobs, some in part time employment while at university, some in a full-time capacity on leaving school. Current ex-NVSHS students, Alex, Saskia, Ben, Dale and Travers add to the ever-increasing list of Narangba Valley students that have been fostered into the Pakton family.

Lunch Time

Our ‘Young at Heart’ lunch themes continue. Succumbing to childishness every now and then, letting our inner child take over for a brief while is something we encourage (at least) on monthly staff lunch days. (We suggest staff eat lunch every day ☺) but once a month we all take lunch together to create a social ‘share’ time. We make it a bit of fun by having a theme and choose food, decorations and dress to match the theme. In July we got into the State of Origin (football) theme and were able to celebrate Queensland's win. In August we acknowledged Brisbane's Exhibition (EKKA) with Pluto Pups and potato chips. September was the ever popular “talk like a pirate day” with fish and chips on the menu. October's lunch was an Oktoberfest theme and November's lunch preceded the Melbourne Cup horse race. Melbourne Cup dress ups



Big News Stories

Big news for the September newsletter should have been the arrival of our newest and youngest. Baby Henry arrived in August, a month early according to doctors' predictions. A good thing we chose to have the baby shower a little earlier than first planned, Henry was born just a few days after the party. Mother (engineer, Crystal) and baby ... and dad... are all doing well.

Big news for the December newsletter is Phil Suther's Wedding. Phil no longer works for Pakton but Kayleen and Paul travelled to Korea to attend his marriage to JiHyeon Yang. Phil is currently working in Korea teaching English and he met JiHyeon a few years ago when attending karate World Championships in Korea.