

**Toni Laurie**

Environment Officer  
AGL Energy  
Gloucester, NSW  
Email: trlaurie1@bigpond.com



I have grown up on a rural property nestled in the ranges of the World Heritage listed Barrington Tops National Park, part of the Great Dividing Range on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales (NSW). My family breed beef cattle (Herefords) and are also involved in the Timber industry. I am the sixth generation to run cattle in the local district.

I have been able to continue my interests in the land and its natural resources through my tertiary studies in Natural Resources at the University of New England, Armidale. I have followed this through into my employment both in Queensland and New South Wales.

I am currently employed by a leading Australian energy company, AGL Energy, in their Upstream Gas group, focusing on the Gloucester Gas Project. This project involves the development of a coal seam gas field and associated distribution pipeline. This project has allowed me to return to my home town of Gloucester (population 2500) and utilise my expertise in a growing Australian industry.

My role as the Environment Officer consists a combination of office and field based work. I deal with the approvals process; land management issues (including soil and water management) across our field sites and pipeline; and the development and implementation of the environmental management plan. I am also responsible for the various mapping/GIS requirements for the project.

Gloucester traditionally has had agriculture (dairy and beef cattle) and timber harvesting as its leading industries, however in more recent times, tourism and coal based industries have also become leading industries. There are also an increasing number of new smaller manufacturing industries that have based themselves in Gloucester instead of the more traditional locations within city confines.

I have many and varied interests and hobbies. I have been involved in the sport of tennis since I was four years old and this continues to be one of my favourite pastimes. I enjoy many outdoor activities, including horse riding (recreational and mustering), bushwalking, gardening and travelling, but also enjoy cooking and sewing. I listen to a range of music styles, from current pop to modern country. I am also a committee member of the local Rural Show Association helping to promote rural industries in our region and beyond.

Whilst on Rotary Group Study Exchange I hope to have the opportunity to:

- Visit a Coal Seam Gas Field and observe current practices used in the USA;
- Discuss and observe the various land management issues specific to District 5440, in particular in relation to the coal industries;
- Discuss the legislation and environmental regulations within the USA;
- Discuss the community consultation process employed with various stakeholders;
- Experience the lifestyle and culture of the Rotarians within District 5440.