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# ACROSS *the* LINES

## Girls with Hi-Vis Workshop provides hands-on look at the power industry

Twenty Southland women from various local high schools and training institutions got a taste of the career opportunities at PowerNet in June.

PowerNet is one of nineteen infrastructure organisations around New Zealand which opened their doors as part of “Girls with Hi-Vis Month” — an initiative from Connexis, the training organisation for New Zealand’s infrastructure industry.

PowerNet senior HR advisor Scott Whitaker says during the event PowerNet staff talked to the attendees about what their role is in the company and the training paths they have taken to achieve their positions.

They were joined by Sarah Dowie MP for Invercargill and Connexis chief executive, Toby Beaglehole.

After welcoming the girls to the Connexis and PowerNet event, the special guests joined them in the day’s activities.

“It is great to be part of an event in Southland which encourages female students to pursue careers within New Zealand infrastructure industry. Partnerships with schools and businesses such as PowerNet are mutually beneficial and help strengthen gender equality in the workplace,” Sarah says.

The women were also shown areas of the company’s operations including touring the system control room and experiencing inside the bucket of an elevated work platform.

They experienced what it’s like to get up close to a de-energised power pole on PowerNet’s training grounds.

The aim of the initiative is to show women what careers are available in the electricity industry and reduce any perceived barriers they may have.

“We are trying to encourage women to see the electrical industry as a viable and attractive career,” Scott says.



*A Girls with Hi Vis participant with Tony Clarke (PowerNet).*



*Girls with Hi Vis participants in elevated work platforms.*



*A Girls with Hi Vis participant with Joseph Reti (PowerNet).*

