

## Integration almost complete



Jason Franklin

The PowerNet integration is almost complete and chief executive Jason Franklin says efficiencies and better workflows are already being seen.

"People have moved into new roles and in some cases new locations," he says. "Financially, we're now reporting as one entity and our systems are all coming together."

"We have all the Board approvals in place for the new integrated business, and we've got our new business plan and Approved Works Programme in place starting from 1 April."

Jason says the understanding from staff about the changes has been appreciated and the positive approach has been great.

"We have people positioned where they can be most effective in the new structure. It's much easier for teams to be next to project managers and so on, so the workflow efficiencies will show through there too."

The Senior Leadership Team has already started workshops on the culture of the new entity, which will include the wider PowerNet team over time.

"We'll have further integration workshops on specific processes and procedures over time, but at the moment everyone is just getting on and doing the job we are here to do," Jason says.

The branding change to the new PowerNet logo is being progressively rolled out to further cement the one company image.

Jason says now the PowerNet integration is largely complete, an integration plan for Peak Power Services is being finalised.

## New building under way

The surveyors have done their bit, the building footprint is marked out and the first sod has been turned on the new PowerNet office building and system control complex at Racecourse Road.

"We had the building consent issued on 11 March, it's been surveyed and now the builders are on site," says PowerNet general manager business support Tim Brown.

"Site preparation and construction are well underway and we're now looking at the interior fit out with furniture and fittings and how best we do that."

Tim says a special team has been set up to work out how best to integrate system control and do the change over from Tuai Street when the building is complete.

"We will keep the current system control room as our back-up option for business continuity purposes," he says.

The new building will include a new phone system and a state-of-the-art security system which is scalable to other parts of the business.

"This system is quite exciting," Tim says. "It will complement the proposed competency framework by giving the ability for controlled access in the future to some substations - such as Spey Street - to control access to only the people qualified or trained to be in there. It makes our buildings all the more secure and helps keep our people safe."



Neil Boniface, Chair of Electricity Invercargill, Maryann Macpherson, Chair of PowerNet and Alan Harper, Chair of The Power Company turning the first piece of soil for the new PowerNet Racecourse Road office

## Maximo

A planning team to review the next development stage of the Maximo asset management software plan has been set up.

"We've been bedding Maximo down and now it's time to look at the next stage," says PowerNet general manager business support Tim Brown.

"It's reviewing the final stage of implementation and looking at the future of the project. The planning team will look at the scheduler, how it affects field staff and how they work."

"We're also looking at the next stages; the road map for Maximo and what's coming out in the future and how we use it for business improvements," he says.

"The development of the scheduling application and the unit assembly application within Maximo are critical to enabling real efficiency gains in how projects are planned, priced and built and how we support our skilled resource in the field to plan and complete the entire range of work," general manager for customer, metering and distribution services Gary Pritchard says.

He says "the flow on benefits of both applications would be significant."

## 2014 IT Projects

A number of new IT projects to improve the way we work have been approved.

"We've got planned improvements to human resources and our intranet upgrade using SharePoint. Planning is well underway," says PowerNet general manager business support Tim Brown.

The HRIS system will give a centralised human resources records system in one place, and in the future this will include web self-service features and management self-service options to streamline business processes.

"We're also moving to Sharepoint and upgrading our intranet and looking at bringing in a business information dashboard," Tim says.

The business information dashboard will consolidate all health and safety, works programme and financial performance, amongst other things, in one place.

"It's going to make it easier for us to monitor business performance in close to real time," Tim says.

Other IT projects include continuing work on the outage communications system.

"We're going to work with Keith Burns and his team on that to improve the support to our field staff and customers."

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## Hedgehope Substation gets fitted out

Placing a 28 tonne transformer and a nine tonne portacom in the wind and rain is no-one's idea of fun but for The Power Company, the smooth delivery of both has brought the Hedgehope substation project another step closer.

The portacom for the substation switchgear and the new 3-5MVA transformer were placed on-site at Hedgehope in just under three hours, despite inclement weather conditions.

"We're very fortunate that we have done a few of these now and we learn from every one," PowerNet major projects manager Tod Trotman says. "Our contractors, particularly Transfield Services and Smith Cranes, did an excellent job with the site preparation and installation."

The 28 tonne transformer took only 10 minutes to manoeuvre from the back of its transport to the carefully designed plinth on-site and fitted perfectly on its supports.

"We had allowed most of the day for the shift, so it is great to have it on-site, placed and tested in such a short space of time," says Tod.

The Hedgehope site is designed to help with the increased load from dairy intensification in the region, while also reducing the load on other substations.

The site is now being completed by Transfield Services and sub-contractors.



The new portacom being lifted on site at Hedgehope Substation

## Smart meters going to plan

The first stage of the smart meter project is complete and the next stage of Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL) and The Power Company Limited (TPC) \$24.5 million investment begins in June.

"Our communications network relays are up and once we commission that network we will be ready to install the smart meters," PowerNet smart meter project manager Paul McCullagh says.

The relays, covering all of TPC and EIL networks, were installed by PowerNet field services staff and can be seen on poles in the TPC region and outlying parts of the EIL network.

"We're looking at probably starting the installations in Invercargill and Gore because that offers the biggest concentration of customers to the retail electricity companies," Paul says.

"Once we have selected a contractor we'll also look at the best way for them to go about the project."

"Production scheduling from the meter manufacturer is a big thing – we're not concerned about them being able to produce what we need, it's just co-ordinating that production schedule with when we need the meters to make it as efficient as possible."

Paul says test meters were installed in the last week of March. The installation communication with customers will be led by retail electricity companies and they will inform customers well ahead of the planned dates for the switch to the future of network management.



An installed relay unit (lower right) on The Power Company network

## Mossburn to Athol ready to go

The two-year Mossburn to Athol PowerNet project is now completed with DECOM testing the substation and all three stages of the line work completed by Delta Utilities.

The new 66kV line will benefit a large number of Northern Southland consumers.

"To liven the line, we had to do a shut down on 8 April," project manager Dave Dunlop says. "The whole thing has gone pretty smoothly, really."

The Mossburn to Athol works will add increased capacity and reliability to the Northern Southland area, which has seen an increase in dairying and irrigation.

Dave says the substation was being commissioned after the line was livened.

The project involved a number of different engineering solutions, including live line work, installing the new Athol substation, and putting in new poles and lines along the route for the 66kV line.

Stage one of the project, a five kilometre upgrade from the Mossburn zone substation through Mossburn and over the Oreti River, was completed in 2012. The 14 kilometre stage two from the Oreti River to Irthing Road at Five Rivers was completed in 2013.



Delta line mechanic brothers Vince and Marcel Moore preparing poles to be erected on stage 3 of the Mossburn to Athol line upgrade

## Winton substation switchgear upgrade

It's a very, very careful process going on at the Winton substation at the moment.

The substation switchgear has come to the end of its useful life and the replacement process is as involved and intense as a heart operation – or at least a bypass.

"We're doing a full bypass of the 11kV switchboard at Winton," PowerNet project manager Roger Scott says.

The full bypass is a different replacement method, requiring the careful testing of bypass methods to ensure reliability and security of supply before the switchboard can be 'turned off' and replaced.

Testing the bypass takes some time to ensure it will work and avoid any outages or other potential issues before the bypass becomes fully activated.

"The bypass will stay in place until the first half of the new switchboard is in," Roger says. "As well as putting in the switchboard our contractors will also be putting in arc flash protection and other equipment to enhance safety standards."

The project, due to be completed by July, is being carried out by Transfield Services and PowerNet staff.

## Remarkables Made More Remarkable

Any of our keen ski bunnies who hit the Remarkables this year (hopefully not literally) can thank our colleagues at Peak Power Services.

No company has more experience than Peak Power at providing reliable and secure electricity supplies to ski areas. Peak Power has New Zealand's ski industry heavyweights Coronet Peak, the Remarkables, Ohau and Cardrona amongst its clients.

"We do all the skifield electrical works for the Remarkables," PowerNet general manager Murray Popenhagen says. "Over the summer we've done on-field reticulation work and two transformers have been refurbished and relocated."

Their experience in completely reticulating Coronet Peak in 2007 has cemented PowerNet and Peak Power as the leading electrical supplier to the skifields.

"At the Remarkables, we have put additional 11kV cabling to new supply positions and replaced some existing cabling in new positions."

The work of our crews continues over the coming months into the ski season as construction work on the new ski-lift is carried out, water reticulation pipelines are installed, as well as new snow making gun pits.

## Shotover Country subdivision

Major cable, transformer and switchgear materials have been ordered for major upcoming Electricity Southland Ltd projects including the Shotover Country school supply, project manager Murray Popenhagen says.

"The first sod has just been turned for the Shotover Country School, which is due for completion in 2015 for 650 pupils. We are in the process of preparing for the siteworks and will be supplying the school, as we have with all of the Shotover Country development."

"We also completed the Shotover Country stage two cabling and low voltage reticulation, installed street lighting and stage two has recently been livened," Murray says.

The 770-lot subdivision, close to Ladies Mile and Lake Hayes, is served by Electricity Southland and will see the number of connections to our network grow substantially. Houses are already being built and the subdivision is proving popular.

Stages three and four of the development are already under construction now stage two is complete.



Stage 3 of Shotover Country subdivision



## Safety focus

A new safety feature for Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL) and The Power Company Limited (TPC) substations has been manufactured and installation is about to begin.

"Installing neutral earth resistors (NERs) at all network substations will add to the company's safety systems," PowerNet major projects manager Tod Trotman says.

The first batch of the NERs have been manufactured in Australia and is en-route to Invercargill.

Designs for the installations at EIL and TPC substations are progressing and the first units should be installed and in service in the first quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

"NERs limit the hazardous voltage that might otherwise appear on network assets when a fault occurs," PowerNet senior network asset engineer Dyson Gentle says. "Installing them is predominantly a safety initiative. They are a new tool to address issues with earthing around the Southland region."

Dyson says while traditional earthing systems have worked, the NERs will improve public safety and protect network assets.

"Geologically, New Zealand is quite diverse and in some areas a good effective earth can be sometimes hard to get. The NERs are the easiest option to install and will not only make our networks safer for the general public but will also help protect our maintenance staff as well as the network assets."

Resistance earthed systems have lower earth fault currents than effectively earthed or reactance earthed systems. The neutral earth resistors will be installed at all major substations.

## PowerNet attends Brothers In Arms road show

There was a high attendance by staff from PowerNet, Otago Power Services and Transfield Services at the Brothers in Arms Road show at Club Southland in Invercargill in March.

Northpower's health and safety field manager Vern Rosieur has been travelling through the South Island with his informative presentation of what can happen when everyday tasks go wrong in the electricity industry.

Vern told the stories of Northpower employees involved in arc flash incidents and the affects it had on them, their families and other staff members. The use of mannequins wearing the PPE worn during the arc flash events had a strong visual impact.

Health safety environment and quality manager Graeme Webby says the road show highlighted three messages:

- Because PPE is the last line of defence it must be up to the task. "PowerNet already uses top-of-the-line PPE but we will be reviewing this, particularly with regard to undergarments made from natural fibres," Graeme says.
- Training has to be effective and based on the appropriate competencies. "We need to make sure we have the right competency based training programmes and we need to make sure that effective procedures are in place and understood by those who rely on them," Graeme says.
- Safety culture - this is the most important. Following the presentation, PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin sent a message to all staff saying - "The person ultimately responsible for safety at work is each of us individually. Our attitude towards safety and our actions, has the biggest impact on whether or not we remain safe. If you believe something is not safe to do, do not do it. All PowerNet employees and contractors have the right to stop themselves, or their workmates, from doing a task they believe is unsafe. It is your right. If this happens, we will find the safe way to do our work."



Northpower Brothers In Arms presenter Vern Rosieur talking to PowerNet, Otago Power Services and Transfield Service staff

## Orange Umbrella – New Process Leaders recruited

PowerNet has a new group of process leaders trained for the Orange Umbrella – Safety Climate Project.

Representatives from the field maintenance team - Tony Clarke, Joseph Reti, Lisa Terapai and health safety environment and quality manager Graeme Webby - recently attended the three day process leaders training course in Wellington, hosted by The Orange Umbrella Company.

"Training also included representatives from electricity network companies Top Energy (Northland) and Scanpower (Dannevirke). These companies recently joined the Orange Umbrella programme," Graeme says.

He says the newly trained staff will make up the eight person process leaders team; all will be available to answer staff questions about the programme, assist in workshops and drive action plans for improvement within our work environment.

PowerNet completed its first Orange Umbrella safety climate assessment in September 2013 and with Power Services completing four prior surveys, the two companies joined forces producing a joint action plan.

"Our first meeting as a team will be in April and be based around five common areas for improvement identified in the September surveys. Action plans will be confirmed, with progress well underway prior to the next staff safety culture survey scheduled for September 2014," Graeme says.

## NEW STAFF



Jan Van Staden

### Jan Van Staden

Jan is the new field services manager at PowerNet, and started in his role on 10 February. He is responsible for the management of the field services team to ensure the delivery of projects, maintenance, new connections and fault responses.

He immigrated to New Zealand from Namibia in 2000 and has worked for Vector, Contact Energy, Siemens and Mercury Energy within the gas, electricity and metering industries.

Jan, who has two children aged 17 and 14, lives with his partner Linda. When he is not organising our field services crews, Jan likes to watch sports like rugby, cricket, golf (which he plays) and snooker. Jan also enjoys going fishing and travelling.



Taniela Moce

### Taniela Moce

Our newest system controller in training Taniela Moce has no complaints about the weather in Southland, despite coming from a place renowned for its sunshine.

Starting his electrical career in his home country of Fiji, Taniela has worked his way up from being an apprentice through to being a substation technician. In 2000, he moved into system control in the Fiji Electricity National Control Centre, a job he held for 13 years before coming to New Zealand.

Married with a son and a daughter, and another baby on the way, Taniela enjoys rugby and maintaining his fitness. He says after hearing the others in system control talk about it a lot, he would like to try the hunting and fishing on offer in Southland. As for that weather, Taniela says "Definitely I won't complain about it here in the deep south, but every day I make a choice to confess that it's gonna be an awesome day today!"



Sarah McPherson

### Sarah McPherson

PowerNet's new financial accountant Sarah McPherson is a born and bred Southlander.

Sarah has a wide range of experience to bring to the company, having worked in the senior leadership team at Blue River Dairy, the largest commercial sheep milking operation in New Zealand. Prior to working at Blue River Sarah was at WHK/Crowe Horwath for eight years while training and studying to become a qualified Chartered Accountant.

She lives with husband Brook, who is also a born and bred Southlander and is an accountant as well.

The McPhersons are footballers and the sport dominates their household during winter – Sarah plays in a local women's football team on Sundays and is part of the Western FC support crowd on a Saturday supporting the men's teams.

To recover from the rigours of winter sport, Sarah and Brook like to take their boat though to Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes during summer to enjoy water-skiing and biscuiting and generally just soak up the sun.



Zariaha Carman

### Zariaha Carman

Our new accounts administrator Zariaha Carman joined the finance team on 6 March.

Zariaha made the move to PowerNet after four years as a creditor administrator at Harvey Norman. Prior to this Zariaha lived and worked in Te Anau, working for the tourism company Real Journeys as reservations officer.

Zariaha's interests include dabbling in a little 'study', with a year under her belt of a Diploma in Business along with studying accounting papers through Massey University. This year Zariaha hopes to continue her studies towards completing her Diploma in Business.

When not at work or studying Zariaha enjoys watching her three children participate in their sporting and cultural interests. As for her own sporting interests, Zariaha plans to take up playing both social soccer and netball next year.

PowerNet would also like to welcome Andrew Papuni, electrical supervisor and Tony Doyle, project manager/designer who both commenced employment at Peak Power Services in February. We also welcome back Roger Scott, project manager at Racecourse Road.

## Remarkables Park Eastern Access

### Road extension

The new Eastern Access Road (EAR) in Queenstown to connect Remarkables Park and Frankton Flats with State Highway 6 and Glenda Drive has had the PowerNet - Peak Power Services touch.

Our crews have installed a 22kV cabling extension while the EAR works are underway, and this will be followed shortly by the installation of several switch units and transformers.

The \$6 million road to open access to Frankton Flats and cut peak hour gridlock will service the new Remarkables Park Recreation Precinct, the new secondary school site and future commercial buildings.

The works undertaken by our Queenstown staff consolidates Electricity Southland's position as a growing network manager in the Queenstown Lakes region.

### Isla Bank substation underway

A bare patch of land south of Drummond is about to play its part in adding reliability and capacity to The Power Company Limited network.

The land has been purchased for the new Isla Bank substation, and site planning is underway, with the key equipment already being built.

"We are going through the consents and other regulatory processes, but we have all the equipment and the building is being constructed at the moment," PowerNet project engineer Nathan Donnelly says.

"The substation and the line upgrade from Fairfax to Isla Bank will give an increased load capacity similar to the new Hedgehope substation. We're replacing the 11kV line with a 66kV/22kV line in what is a major network investment," Nathan says.

The increased load from dairying and irrigation is part of the reason for the substation and the line upgrade, but it is also to increase reliability and capacity on the networks we manage.

## New Zealand citizenship for Tweedie family

Becoming New Zealand citizens was extremely important to the Tweedie family who took the oath of allegiance to the Queen and New Zealand on 28 January.

PowerNet commercial analyst Rob Tweedie, wife Marené and children Mitch, Darren and Alison can now officially call New Zealand home. The family moved from South Africa in 2008, settling in Invercargill.

"It was important for us to become New Zealand citizens as we have settled here and made New Zealand our home. Both Marené and myself have family in Canterbury, Wellington and Auckland who have also become citizens," Rob says.

The hour-long ceremony held at the Invercargill City Council chambers was hosted by Mayor Tim Shadbolt and council CEO Richard King. The morning included the official citizenship ceremony, a presentation of the responsibilities of becoming a citizen, and finished with an enjoyable morning tea.

"We decided we would invite some Kiwi friends to celebrate with us and they very kindly put together a basket of our Kiwi favourites," Rob said.

Now, depending on who is winning the rugby, Rob has a reason to celebrate.

"I'm a very proud supporter of the All Blacks but if South Africa is on a winning streak I can claim them as my winning team."

## Southern Field Days

The weather might not have been the best, but PowerNet made its presence felt at the 2014 Southern Field Days at Waimumu held over three days, in February.

"The Field Days, attended by over 85,000 people this year, gave us the chance to talk to farmers and contractors about everything from safety issues on the farm to smart meters," PowerNet general manager business support Tim Brown said.

"This was our second time attending the bi-annual event and our attendance will continue to be part of our ongoing communication strategy," Tim said.

The 15x10m site featured a variety of informative display boards and hand outs. The tent also hosted a photo booth which attracted many parents and school children happy to dress up and have their photos taken. The printed take home photos had key safety messages designed to remind those photographed to take care around power lines.

"We also displayed our brand new PowerNet bucket truck. Our competition focused around the height of the raised bucket making the public aware of the four metre rule when working around power lines on the farm. All correct entries went into a draw to win one of six \$100 grocery vouchers," Tim says.

Staff from PowerNet, Otago Power Services and Asplundh attended the event to speak with customers. A sausage sizzle on-site raised \$390 for the local Cancer Society's Relay for Life campaign.



PowerNet staff talking to customers at the Southern Field Days PowerNet site



Left to Right: Mitch, Rob, Alison, Marené, Mayor Tim Shadbolt and Darren



## Tired but not retired

After years of being part of PowerNet's Tour of Southland management crew, Jim Phair got on the road bike himself for a race promoted as one that "rips cruelly at the lungs" at the end of January.

The 101km race as part of the Milford Mountain Classic is from the Homer Tunnel to the Te Anau lakefront. Despite the first three kilometres including 320m of climb and the last part of the race including the killer Retford Hill, Jim managed to do it in just under three hours.

"It was the first time that I had done this and I had to borrow my son's road bike to do it," Jim says.

More of an off-road cyclist, Jim has previously ridden the likes of the Mount Linton Muster; Mavora Explorer; Gowan Hill Classic and Motatapu.

"I'm now retired or perhaps just tired," Jim says.

PowerNet's photographer James Jubb also did the Milford race.

In March, PowerNet staff gave the Motatapu off-road events – the mountain bike over 47km and the off-road marathon of 42km - from Wanaka to Arrowtown a go.

Steve Labes (3 hours 9 min), Justin Peterson (3 hours 16 min) - despite falling off when a riverbank gave way with one kilometre to go and losing some skin - "it looked impressive as I crossed the finish!" and Alaister Marshall (3 hours 25 min) finished the Motatapu mountain bike event.

Justin and Steve obviously have river issues, as Steve also took an unplanned dip in a river. The Motatapu, with a highest point of 877m and a cumulative climb of over 1200m, is New Zealand's top mass mountain bike event.

General manager business support Tim Brown walked the Motatapu and confessed to being slightly amazed at how many people didn't mind being seen answering the call of nature. After hitting the wall with about 17km to go, Tim got a pick me up in the form of Panadol and a chocolate bar. Then with his sugar levels once again back to normal this saw him pick up the pace again and finish in seven hours.

PowerNet Director; Duncan Fea also rode in this year's Motatapu. This was Duncan's 3rd Motatapu event finishing in 2 hours 45 minutes. "It was a great day out and always a good challenge, despite suffering from a bit of cramp and on-going mechanical issues," Duncan says.

Justin had warmed up for the Motatapu by riding the gruelling Hokonui Moonshine Trail 42km mountain bike event in just under three and a half hours in mid-February.

Good effort, everyone!



Alaister Marshall



Steve Labes

## Going back to the (married) future

PowerNet line mechanic Lance Harris and his bride Alice (nee Horrell) recreated a little bit of history at their wedding in Tuatapere on 18 January this year.

After the nuptials, the two and their bridal party recreated the same photo Alice's great-grandparents had had taken after their wedding in 1913. In the gardens of the Waiau Hotel in Tuatapere, the two posed with their many wedding guests in the same style as Alice's relatives George Frankford Horrell and Anne Cughlan had over 100 years earlier to create a unique time-lapse.

We wish the happy couple all the best for the future.



George Frankford Horrell and Anne Cughlan with their wedding guests (1913)



Lance and Alice with their wedding guests (2014)

## Relay for Life

The 2014 Southland Relay for Life was held at Rugby Park Stadium from 12 noon Saturday 1 March until 10 am Sunday 2 March.

"The PowerNet team had various fundraising activities, from Fashion in the Field morning tea, a Xmas ham raffle, sale of truffles and gingerbread, BBQ sausages at the Waimumu Field Days, a BBQ at Onslow Street, a 12 week pedometer challenge and a raffle," PowerNet Relay co-ordinator Mary-Anne Smith says.

"The PowerNet team raised \$2063.70, which was very pleasing as all staff contributed in some way, and management in particular were very good at dipping their hands in their wallets to heavily sponsor the pedometer challenge. The Southland area had raised \$120,000 before the relay even started and at this stage the current figure is \$140,000 and still climbing."

Mary-Anne says the number of staff members in the actual Relay was down on previous years, which did leave the team working hard to cover the full 22 hours, sometimes in pouring rain, "although not quite as bad as the previous Relay".

PowerNet Relay participants included Waric, Scott, Sharon, Amanda and Kyle, Shirley, June, Dave, Graeme and Chrissie, Helana and family, Trish and Geoff, Tim and Simone, Jim and Jan, Bevan and young Samantha, Mary-Anne and Peter with friends Garry and Bev.

"During the night I walked alongside some real characters, including a young guy dressed as a clown. He told me he was doing his bit to support the Cancer Society as he would be forever grateful for their support when he needed it. Another older lady with a bad limp and crutch to support her struggled through a three hour stint and said she was appreciative of support given to members of her family," Mary-Anne says.

"The Candlelight ceremony was very moving and many had tears rolling down their faces as they remembered lost friends and families, but also acknowledged the survivors and the battles they had to endure. In the wee small hours walkers were encouraged by people calling support to individuals and teams, and I would have to say our brightly lit power pole hard hats really stood out in the darkness. Jim Phair wearing an unlit power pole was soon told by others that he needed to turn his lights on!"

"My thanks to all the hard working team – the fund raisers and the walkers, to the husbands, wives, children and friends who came down to join in the laps beside us, to staff who purchased food, raffles, sponsored people and donated raffle prizes," she says.

Mary-Anne also thanks PowerNet management for supplying sausages for the Southern Field Days and Onslow Street BBQs, paying the team entry fee, making a monetary donation and supplying some of the prizes for the raffle.



Members of the PowerNet Relay for Life team: Graeme Webby, Sharon Johnstone, Scott Murch, Amanda Milne and Mary-Anne Smith

## Papatowai challenge

Four PowerNet staff, together with a wider group of friends, entered the 15.5km Papatowai Challenge over a scenic course of well-formed bush tracks, beach running and local roads – and some took more time than others to enjoy the Catlins scenery.

PowerNet finance team members Rachel Kincaid and Lauren Ridder walked the route.

"It was the first time I have entered – Lauren asked if I wanted to do it," Rachel says. "We started along the beach then up a hill - felt like a mountain then down a gravel road which led back to the main road." She says having done no training the aftermath of the walk was quite painful. Lauren says they completed the walk in 2 hours 29 minutes.

Veteran Papatowai entrant and PowerNet company secretary Jim Dawson completed his 11th Papatowai Challenge, walking the near 10 miles on no training this year. "I'm not sure of this year's time but I was certainly behind Lauren and Rachel," Jim says. "I do it for "recreation" rather than a time."

Distribution project manager, Peter Eastwood finished his 3rd Papatowai Challenge in a time of 1 hour 20 minutes, not quite beating his personal best time of 1 hour 15 mins back seven years ago. "Although it's the same course every year it doesn't get any easier; just the legs get older," Peter says.

Congratulations to all who completed the Challenge.

## Softball Success

PowerNet administration officer Victoria Ward was part of the Southland Women's and under-17 combined softball team that finished third at the South Island Jubilee Cup tournament in December.

Victoria, who plays for Dodgers in Invercargill, says they played their best game on day one of the weekend tournament.

"On the first day we played Canterbury U19s first. The game went into two tie breakers and we took the win by one run. This was by far the best game of the tournament," she says.

"In our second game we beat Nelson and lost our third game to a strong Canterbury Womens team."

On day two, Victoria's team played Canterbury under-19s again, but the result was reversed, leaving Southland to play off for third place.

"We played Nelson again in the playoff and beat them."



Victoria Ward in action – Southland v Nelson