

## Christmas Message



Jason Franklin

On behalf of the PowerNet senior leadership team, I would like to wish all our staff and contractors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Once again, you have all contributed to a very busy and successful year for our company, and I thank you for your hard work and involvement which has resulted in great outcomes for our customers and wider stakeholders.

### Our Safety

Workplace and public safety is paramount. Nothing is more important than this. The SQRA Safety Improvement process provided PowerNet, Power Services and Otago Power Services with a great platform to move forward and target improvement in workplace safety. Having 12 experienced linesmen and other team members from these companies involved in this structured process to identify areas of workplace risk has given us a wealth of information and structure for our safety improvement programme. For me this illustrated that if you want to understand what is going on in the business, and where there are improvements to be made, engage with the team members who are out there 24/7 building and maintaining the networks.

In addition to SQRA, putting in place stronger health and safety practices through initiatives such as the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) Safety Climate Project (Orange Umbrella), the Incident Cause Analysis Method (ICAM), updating our working practices in relation to confined spaces, mitigation of arc flash hazards and new standards in relation to workplace vehicles, all contributes to a safer workplace for us all.

### Our Customers

Customer engagement has been a major focus through 2013. Getting out and around the networks and hearing first hand what our customers have to say about their electricity supply was a big focus this year. Our regular customer surveys show very pleasing results again, with high ratings across the networks we manage. Customer functions in Waikouaiti, Winton and Invercargill gave us the opportunity to showcase our commitment to upgrading and enhancing our networks, and at the same time listen to what customers have to say has been invaluable. It has been great to hear of the business expansion projects some of our customers have and especially how we may be able to assist through our planned capital works.

### Our Team

The amalgamation of PowerNet, Power Services, and Peak Power Services has been a big focus internally towards the end of the year, and I thank everyone for their understanding and assistance as we progress through this process. It will take some time for the integration to be completed, so I appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to shape our company for the future. Our new company will bring significant improvements and help us work better to ensure we continue to be one of the leading network management companies in the country.

### Our Results

Our team has helped deliver great results in relation to network reliability. Specifically for the Electricity Invercargill network, it now ranks as the most reliable network in New Zealand, with both the lowest number of customer interruptions, and the least duration for customer outages.

It has been another action packed year. Other key milestones during the year and great work by the team, both staff and contractors, include;

- The Smart Meter Project approval for Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited. This is a \$24.5 million investment in those two networks which will enable us to better manage the networks from the real time management in system control through to long term engineering asset management. This is the largest single investment since the decision to acquire Otago Power 11 years ago.
- The Maximo asset management system went live in May across the networks, allowing us to better capture and use the asset information in the future. This project took many months and involved most of the team at PowerNet in one way or another.
- Electricity Southland is now growing at a rapid pace, with further opportunities ahead for the network.
- Only a few years ago, who had really heard of terms such as "liquefaction" or "100% of the new building standard"? We now are fully aware of all this, and the seismic upgrade work across the networks is well advanced and completed for a lot of the substations. Some great work in this area.
- We have achieved some big projects this year, such as the Kennington substation upgrade, the new Athol substation, and are starting work on other major projects at Isla Bank, Hedgehope, the new Invercargill CBD substation in Spey Street and now the Awarua substation at Colyer Road. These investments demonstrate the growth we are experiencing across the networks and the need to ensure our customers continue to enjoy secure, reliable electricity supply.

### Thank You

I would like to thank the directors of Electricity Invercargill, The Power Company, Electricity Southland, OtagoNet and PowerNet for their support and encouragement at both a governance and operational level over the last 12 months.

Finally, to all staff and contractors, I thank you again for your contribution this year, your patience and consideration as we move through the amalgamation process, and your commitment to our networks.

Enjoy your holidays, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

## Chair Message



Maryann Macpherson

On behalf of my fellow directors, I would like to wish all PowerNet staff and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you all for your hard work during the year to ensure the networks we manage have a secure, safe, and reliable electricity supply.

2014 looks to be another busy year for PowerNet staff, so I hope you get the chance to have a break and recharge your batteries.

Maryann Macpherson  
Chair, PowerNet

*This edition of Across the Lines covers the period prior to and following the amalgamation of Power Services Limited and PowerNet Limited, hence the references to Power Services and their staff.*

## Building Update

The demolition of the old Crane House and workshop at PowerNet's Racecourse Road site began on November 11 to make way for our new purpose-built office.

PowerNet business services manager Tim Brown says the demolition of the 65 year old buildings was the beginning of the site redevelopment.

"We awarded the tender for the demolition to Bruce Stoddart and Partners Limited on October 25, and they started on-site on November 11. We should have it all down and cleared before Christmas so the new building work can start in the New Year," he says.

The Crane House and workshop buildings are on part of the planned new PowerNet office site. The new building will replace the old collection of buildings currently used by about 65 staff.

"The proposed new design allows us to have our offices and network system control on the same site, but also offers other benefits such as better working conditions for our staff."

The new building has a seismic low damage design and in the event of a natural disaster will have fully self-contained power and water sources.

"We have had a collection of prefabricated buildings on our site for some time now," Tim says. "The new building sets us up for the future so we can stay at the forefront of network management."

The new build and fit-out is expected to be finished by mid to late 2014.



*Demolition of the Crane House*

## Spey Street Substation and cable from Findlay Road to Spey Street via Yarrow Street

Ground works have started on the new multi-million dollar substation at Spey Street.

"We have got approval to start ground works and so from here on it's an ongoing project to transfer from the Doon Street substation to the new site in Spey Street," project manager Mark Zwies says.

The substation will replace the Doon Street substation, which does not meet new earthquake guidelines, and its proximity to the Water Tower meant a more suitable site had to be found to ensure security and reliability of supply to the central business district and other areas in the event of an earthquake.

"An unexpected consideration for the combined projects was the interest from the Historic Places Trust due to the age of the site. The works are now subject to monitoring and review, which adds complexity to the project."

This has not stopped the various aspects of design, planning and procurement progressing.

Running in conjunction with the new substation project is the 33kV cable installation project from Transpower's Invercargill substation in Findlay Road to Spey Street via Yarrow Street.

"The route of the new cable has been agreed with Invercargill City Council (ICC) with ducting now in place to minimise the impact on the ICC's completed roadworks along Queens Drive," PowerNet's general manager of network operations Gary Pritchard says.

"The 33kV cable installation project should progress once the contracts and the necessary road corridor access documentation is in place."



*Ducting being laid on Yarrow Street*

## Customer surveys

A survey of Electricity Invercargill and The Power Company customers by PowerNet shows the vast majority are happy with the service we offer:

600 residential customers and 20 commercial customers were surveyed and overall, the networks received an 8.3 out of 10 favourable ranking for key areas such as reliability of supply, supply quality, outage communication and rapid response to any outage.

Our annual surveys are important to our business and provide valuable data. The feedback we get from these surveys is important to us in planning for the future and ensuring we are meeting customer needs wherever possible.

## New Southland Power Trust Trustees

The Southland Electric Power Supply Consumer Trust has two new trustees with the appointment of Carl Findlater and David Rose.



Carl Findlater

Carl Findlater was elected as a Trustee in September 2013. He is married to Yvonne and they have a son Callum who is currently attending High School.

His career has spanned marine steam engineering and design, education, compliance and sawmilling. He is presently involved in his family sawmilling enterprise.

Carl is a past board member of the Forest Industry Training and Education Council and for many years a committee member and Chair of the Solid Wood Training Association. He is a Trustee of the Waimea Plains Railway, a member of the Vintage Car Club and a Committee member of the Invercargill Cultural and Welfare Society.

Carl's recreational interests include family vintage motorcycles, politics and reading.



David Rose

David Rose was elected as a Trustee in September 2013. He farms at Northope with his wife Helen and their two teenage sons.

He is a member of Federated Farmers NZ (FFNZ) Southland executive. David has been Southland Provincial President and served seven years on FFNZ National Council. During this time he was elected a National FFNZ Board member and was national spokesman for adverse events, ACC, rural security, employment, Ag Health and Safety, education and local government.

David has also served on the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) Council, chaired his local Lochiel School Board of Trustees, Environment Southland's Oreti Catchment Liaison Committee and been a Trustee of the Southland Life Education Trust. His interests are a passion to serve his community, his family, farming and politics.

## Electricity Invercargill Limited's new Director



Sarah Brown

Sarah Brown joined the Board of Electricity Invercargill Limited on 1 November 2013.

She is an Associate with Goodman Tavendale Reid, specialising in general commercial and rural based legal work. She has been the Council Chair of the Southern Institute of Technology since 2011 and is also on the Board of Kindergartens South. Sarah is a member of the Institute of Directors.

## OtagoNet Customer Function

OtagoNet Joint Venture's governing committee and senior staff met network customers at a client function held at the Waikouaiti Events Centre in late August.

"The average life of the network is being reduced through our five year planning programme of capital and operational asset replacements," PowerNet chief executive Jason says. "This meeting gave us a chance to explain to some of OtagoNet's large customers how this work will improve reliability and security of supply."

Commercial services manager Aaron Sinclair says the governing committee took the opportunity to visit the Zeagold poultry farm modern facility near Waikouaiti. Zeagold is a privately-owned company and New Zealand's leading producer of eggs and egg products. "The visit gave our governing committee an insight into a major commercial customer on our network and their operations," Aaron says.

"We find these meetings very useful and the conversations we have with the people who rely on our network give us excellent feedback on network performance and their expectations."

OtagoNet took the opportunity to donate a Resusci Anne CPR manikin, which will be used by a wide range of community groups.

The donation was made to the Waikouaiti Fire Brigade during the customer function. The Resusci Anne is a full bodied adult CPR training manikin, which can also be used in training for first aid.

## Paul McCullagh – Project Manager Smart Meters



Paul McCullagh

Paul McCullagh was appointed to the role of Project Manager on 2 December.

Born in Hamilton, Paul spent his teenage years in Wellington before heading to university in Christchurch. He graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Masters Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and started his career with the New Zealand Electricity Department, later moving onto roles with ECNZ and Transpower. In 1987 he won a CBI scholarship to work in the UK and spent the year in Wiltshire.

In 1989 he moved back to Hamilton to manage a team of control and communications engineers working for Designpower, the consulting arm of ECNZ. Prior to joining PowerNet Paul managed his own engineering consulting company specialising in remote control systems for energy utilities.

Paul and his wife Linda have three adult children who are now working in London, Wellington and Hamilton. Linda has adult and primary teaching qualifications. Her last two positions have involved the strategic planning and management of the IT infrastructure of the schools where she has also taught maths and science.

Paul's interests outside work include snow and water skiing, tramping, mountaineering and cycling. He has completed the Taupo Round the Lake Cycle Challenge seven times and climbed Aoraki/Mount Cook in 2006. He also enjoys motorcycle touring and is looking forward to discovering the roads of the South Island.

## Electricity Invercargill Limited Customer Function

The Invercargill branch of St John South Island Region has two new defibrillators thanks to the generosity of Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL).

EIL donated the defibrillators to the charitable organisation at a commercial customer function held in Invercargill at the end of October. The customer function, held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, saw over 40 commercial customers join EIL directors and staff for an update on the network projects and the presentation of the defibrillators.

EIL chair Neil Boniface says with the recent opening of the St John Training Centre and the St John Op-shop, the EIL directors thought these two new public venues should be equipped with permanent on-site defibrillators.

"With the large number of Southlanders expected to visit the sites we believe the defibrillators are an excellent gift to the community," Mr Boniface says.

St John South Island Region area executive officer Sally Jarvie says the defibrillators were a valuable donation to the Group.

"St John want to have defibrillators in all of their buildings that the public have access to. It is important for the community to have access to a defibrillator as this can mean the difference between life and death," Mrs Jarvie says.

Both Heartstart FRx defibrillators are a world leading brand and have local service support. They are also fully portable and have automatic voice prompts to assist the user through the rescue procedure.



Darren Ludlow (EIL Director), Richard Gray (St John), Neil Boniface (EIL Chair), Jason Franklin (PowerNet Chief Executive)

## Big cat to Kingston

Power Services helped a large catamaran to its new home on Lake Wakatipu.

The 26m 'Spirit of Queenstown' catamaran was built for the scenic cruise company Southern Discoveries. The big boat was built in and sailed from Brisbane, arriving in Bluff in August after a three day journey across the Tasman.

Once on land the boat was transported by Scobies Transport to the wharf in Kingston. The trip took two days to complete.

Power Services area manager Bruce Reinke says movement of the catamaran involved eight line mechanics working on The Power Company electricity network.

"The electricity lines were either lowered or lifted en-route allowing the catamaran to pass safely. Due to the height of the catamaran, electricity to some customers was interrupted for short periods. There was prior notification to the affected customers on the network," Bruce says.

From Kingston the boat was sailed up to Queenstown and berthed at O' Regan's Wharf.

The 'Spirit of Queenstown' will carry tourist passengers to Mt Nicholas Station by day and be utilised in the evenings to host corporate conference groups.



The Spirit of Queenstown travelling through the EIL network

## Glengarry Shopping Centre receives upgrade in electricity equipment

With the decommissioning of the old Glengarry public toilets, PowerNet took the opportunity to upgrade the existing transformer and switch gear which was originally housed separately within in the old building.

Technical engineer Phil Hartley says that the colourful building was over 40 years old and housed the centre's public toilets which had recently been replaced.

"The electrical gear inside the building was past its economic life and as it was found that the old building was an earthquake risk, it was an appropriate time for the upgrade to happen," Phil says.

Communication between PowerNet and the stakeholders, Invercargill City Council and the Glengarry community took over 12 months and included easements and site approval.

"It was well over a year before we had the equipment on site ready to commence," he says.

Work was completed by Power Services Technical staff lead by cable joiner/electrical fitter Ray King. Ray's team had worked onsite for over a month replacing the old 1960 transformer with a 500kVA ETEL transformer.

Phil says that the 5 way ring main unit was a modern SF6 gas insulated type supplied by Schneider Electric.

"The transformer was livened at the start of December and would service the businesses within the shopping centre," Phil says.

The Invercargill City Council and Glengarry community are yet to decide on what would be built on the demolished area.



Jason Nicholson (Power Services) working on the 5 way ring main unit

## Athol substation

The transformer and the portacom for the switchgear is on-site, the wiring is all being tested and, when stage three of the Mossburn to Athol line upgrade is complete, the new Athol substation will be ready to liven.

Sitting alongside State Highway 6, the site has been a hive of activity as contractors DECOM and Power Services staff prepare for the commissioning of the new substation so that the incoming 66kV line from Mossburn can be connected and livened.

The stage three 66kV line into the substation will provide the region with an improved quality of electricity supply and will complete a year-long, \$5 million-plus project.



Portacom being lifted on-site at the Athol substation

## Shotover Country and Remarkables Park keep growing

The growth on the Electricity Southland Lakeland network shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

PowerNet commercial manager Aaron Sinclair says the Remarkables Park retail and commercial area along with the new Shotover Country subdivision have been great additions to the growth of the network in the Frankton area.

"At Shotover Country, people are starting to connect to the network," he says. "There are 28 ICPs to be connected in stage one of the subdivision and there will be a lot more."

Aaron says stage two and three of the 770-lot development are being opened up for reticulation now. "At Remarkables Park, there are a couple of new retail developments there, a childcare centre and a Southern Institute of Technology development."



Shotover Country subdivision

## Queens Drive - Stage 3

The final stage of the Queens Drive 11kV cabling in Invercargill is underway.

Network maintenance manager Ian Roberston says the final stage of the project became a lot simpler after a decision by the Invercargill City Council to utilise reserve land.

"Council was going to go down the east side of Queens Drive, but there were a few issues with that land so there was a change from what was initially planned," he says.

"Using the reserve land on the western side instead has made our work a lot easier."

The cabling stages have followed the Council works as Queens Drive is upgraded.

Ian, who has managed the cable replacement from Herbert Street through to Tay Street over three stages, says the end is in sight.

"Each stage has been slightly different to the others," he says. "Being able to take advantage of the Council opening up the road as they do their own upgrade has been useful."

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## Smart Meters update

The appointment of Paul McCullagh as smart meters project manager continues the exciting new development for customers on the Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited networks.

"We welcome Paul to his role. This is going to be a big job, and the benefits for customers and us as network manager are going to be big too. Paul has the necessary experience and understands smart meter technology and the required communications infrastructure," PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says.

"Electricity Invercargill Ltd is spending \$6.5 million and The Power Company \$18 million on approximately 60,000 new smart meters, covering some 52,000 ICPs. All customers on the two networks will receive a new smart meter."

"Smart meters will help us, as network managers, better manage the load. We will be able to manage the network in real time, rather than waiting until we hear of a fault. Smart meters will mean we don't have to have a process of elimination for faults any more. Our control room will be able to see exactly where a fault is occurring," Jason says.

For long-term network planning and real time network management, this investment completely changes the game.

Deployment of the smart meters will start in 2014, with no cost to customers to have a smart meter installed.

From an installation point of view, the meters will not take long to replace – they will be done with a one-off visit that will be closely co-ordinated with customers.

"Our meter installation contractors have wide experience at this work, having carried out similar projects across New Zealand," Jason says.

"This \$24.5 million investment by these two network companies continues our process of upgrading and future-proofing to meet the needs of customers and our operational needs."



Paul McCullagh holding one of the smart meters that will be installed

## Hot stick training for Otago Power Services and Power Services

A rigorous seven-week training course should see seven new live line mechanics added to the Otago Power Services crews in Balclutha and Gore, and two to Power Services crews in Lumsden and Invercargill.

Otago Power Services area manager for Gore Jim Matheson says qualified live line staff are always in demand.

"We try to do as much live line work as we can, to avoid outages to customers," he says. "This intensive training gives the line mechanics a new qualification as well as extra pay."

The training course, carried out by quality safety and environment manager Phil Johnson of Power Services, involves weeks of skill based learning including working on energised equipment using long insulated tools from a distance, referred to as "hot sticks" along with "glove and barrier" techniques which involves covering up all the live equipment except the wire to be worked on, then physically handling the live equipment using gloves and working from an insulated bucket truck.

Jim says it is important to keep training new live line mechanics.

"We end up having the best qualified guys becoming the supervisor or foreman and they get taken out of the gang and we need to replace them," he says.

Phil Johnson says the trainees complete the course then, subject to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority being satisfied they have met the requirements of the unit standard, they will receive a National Certificate in Electricity Supply.



Mechanics from Otago Power Services and Power Services undertaking live line training

## Operation teams network tour

"Getting out to see new network developments gave staff a chance to see the work they had been hearing about," Alaister Marshall, PowerNet customer and metering services manager says.

An operation section network tour in late November saw 16 PowerNet staff head for Frankton, via Athol, to check out new and existing projects.

"The network tour is a familiarisation opportunity and also the chance for a bit of team bonding," Alaister says. "It gives us the chance to see the projects we work on and the ones we hear about."

The tour began at the new Athol substation, where contractors DECOM were just doing a pre-completion check before handing it over to be commissioned, then went on to the Frankton zone substation which supplies a large number of Electricity Southland Limited customers including Remarkables Park and the new Hilton Hotel at Kawarau Falls.

"Some guys have been involved in the build of these projects, but it was good for the others to see these in operation or up close," Alaister says.

"We went to the Shotover Country development and got an idea of the speed at which that subdivision is developing already."

The tour went on to call in to meet the Peak Power Services team in Glenda Drive, before having a look at the Hilton Hotel development en route back to Invercargill.

"It was good in terms of getting out in the field and actually seeing the work we do in practice," Alaister says.



Members of the operations team viewing the Athol substation

## Network Waitaki visit

PowerNet's adoption and implementation of the Maximo software for asset and project management has sparked interest from other networks.

"Network Waitaki were keen to visit as it is in the process of reviewing the software and systems it uses for asset management and accounting," PowerNet's general manager network operations Gary Pritchard says.

"The visiting team from Waitaki were interested in our financial, asset management and work flow processes and the tools we use in these processes," Gary says.

"The Network Waitaki team were quite focused on our approach to the selection and evaluation process which determined Maximo as the preferred option and our strategy for implementation and integration of Maximo," Gary says.

Throughout the day, breakout groups discussed a wide range of areas involved in the development and introduction of Maximo such as GIS, project management, data management and customer service delivery.

"Working closely with our neighbouring networks, sharing information and learning points, works to the advantage of the industry as a whole," Gary says.

## Finance team head to Bluff

Twelve members of the PowerNet finance team headed out for the day on 30 October to visit areas of interest on The Power Company and Electricity Invercargill networks.

"The tour gave us the opportunity to visit a variety of commercial customers and see the growth on the networks that we manage," accounting services manager Jim Phair says.

The day began with a tour of the Busck factory in Lake Street where the team were educated in the process of constructing concrete poles.

"With existing wooden and old concrete poles being replaced with new Busck 11 and 12.5 metre poles it was great to see what the production process comprised of," Jim says.

Next stop for the team was a tour through South Pacific Meats processing plant at Awarua, viewing all areas from the sticking pens through to the gut sheds, all while learning the history of the plant along the way from tour guides Kevin Hamilton and Norris Tait.

The group also visited the proposed wind farm site at Flat Hill near Bluff and the team then had an extensive tour around the South Port wharf complex in the afternoon.



Finance team members at South Pacific Meats with tour guides Kevin Hamilton (far left) and Warris Tait (far right)

## Safety Initiatives

### Confined spaces

Ensuring our company policy on working in confined spaces is up to date has been one of network maintenance manager Ian Robertson's recent projects.

"We've got underground substations and switching stations in the Invercargill CBD," Ian says, "So we have been ensuring all our policies and procedures for working in these underground confined spaces are up to date."

Frank McCutcheon from IMPAC health and safety management consultants carried out an assessment of PowerNet's current policy on working in confined spaces.

"Frank made a few recommendations, which we are implementing," Ian says. "We've always had a procedure in place, but we wanted to make sure it was in line with current best practice and complied with the standards."

### Mitigating arc flash hazards

A pilot study designed to help mitigate potential arc flash hazards is underway.

PowerNet's chief engineer Roger Paterson says 10 substations and sites across the Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited networks have been reviewed as part of the initial study.

"The arc flash assessment looks at different fault scenarios at a site and calculates the potential energy that could be released during a fault," he says.

"The assessments will also provide us with an understanding of the arch flash hazard".

This pilot will be extended to all substations.

### ICAM Training

During August, 18 operational staff from PowerNet, Power Services and Otago Power Services attended an in-house course on the Incident Cause Analysis Method (ICAM).

The ICAM process has been used widely in the investigation of workplace and public incidents / accidents and equipment failures in the energy, aviation, rail, road and mining sectors and draws on the work of human error expert Professor James Reason.

The Electricity Engineers' Association has been promoting the use of ICAM because it identifies local factors and failures within the context of the organisational and productive systems that contribute to incident or "close call" events.

These can include organisational culture, design and management structures, operating procedures, incompatible goals, communication, training, change management and equipment.

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## Power Services surprises at first attempt

A team of five Power Services employees took out three of the team events at the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation (ESITO) Annual Connection competition held in Christchurch before Labour Weekend.

"The team did exceptionally well considering it was their first time in the competition," Power Services quality safety environment manager Phil Johnson says. "Usually a lot of the teams who have entered before and trained for the event take out a lot of the individual events, so it was great to win three."

The competition consists of teams working on 15 events over the whole competition, such as transformer installation, crane operation and pole top rescue. The three day event attracted 72 participants from 12 electricity supply industry companies throughout New Zealand.

"The line mechanic team of Power Services employees, Bruce Reinke as team manager (Invercargill), Mike Johnston as team leader (Te Anau), Murray Cunningham (Invercargill), Joseph Reti (Lumsden) and Nathan Dickens (Winton) picked up valuable experience," Phil says.

"It's a great networking event with other companies, and you pick up how they do things and everyone learns the best practice from each other," he says.

In addition to the line mechanic team, Paul Barclay (Invercargill) took part in the cable jointing events.

Paul's competition involved nine exercises including demonstrating practical knowledge in high and low voltage work, safety, first aid, pit rescue and cable jointing theory.

"As a company this was our first year attending the national competition," Phil says. "The experience gained from our attendance will increase our standard of quality in the electrical fields that we work in."



Left to Right: Nathan Dickens, Joseph Reti, Paul Barclay, Mike Johnston, Murray Cunningham

## TradeQual Celebrations

The annual TradeQual Awards function was held on 14 November at the Invercargill Workingmens' Club. Attendees from Power Services included Jonathan Willis, Keith Burns and PowerNet's HR Manager Trish Hazlett.

Power Services had five graduates this year with Jonathan Willis, Christopher Dillon, Paul Barclay, Richard Brown and Terry Shanks each gaining their electrical trade qualifications.

PowerNet is a bronze sponsor of the event which recognises the importance of trade qualifications in Southland. The event is in its ninth year and brings a variety of industries together to celebrate Southland's newly qualified tradespeople.

Congratulations to you all, from management and staff of Power Services and PowerNet.

## Transformer testing

The new transformer for the Spey Street substation in Invercargill was put through its paces under the watchful eye of PowerNet project engineer Mark Zwies recently.

Mark travelled to Jakarta to do final tests on the transformer before it was shipped to be part of the Electricity Invercargill Limited \$5 million substation.

"It is always much more cost effective to be able to assess and fix any issues at the factory rather than trying to do it in the field," Mark says. "This final testing trip ran through a series of tests over a week to make sure the transformer performs to specification as requested."

The transformer was built by PT CG Power Systems Indonesia, who have supplied a number of transformers to PowerNet in the past.

"The transformer cost about \$900,000," Mark says, "So we don't want to have any issues with it when it arrives on-site. This testing trip allows us to also get an understanding of the transformer and what it can and can't do."

Mark says the factory visit also allowed the manufacturers and PowerNet staff to share design ideas.

"You get to discuss the design with the people making it and in turn, hopefully, that helps us make better designs in the future."

The transformer will be held in storage until needed. The Spey Street substation, which will increase capacity and give greater security of supply to the Invercargill CBD and other areas, was set to begin ground works once building consent is obtained.

## PowerNet Cycle team do well at the 2013 Tour of Southland

PowerNet certainly left its mark on the 2013 SBS Bank Tour of Southland.

PowerNet had a great bunch of guys in the team again, with Paul "Oddy" Odlin (Christchurch), James Williamson (Alexandra), Tim Rush (Oamaru), Brad Evans (Mosgiel) and Aucklanders Roman van Uden and Alex Ray.

Looking good in the new blue cycling kit, the team finished third in the initial team time trial, just missing a stage win. Roman van Uden won stage one in Gore. He went for home with 10km to go, missed out on the leader's yellow jersey by one second, but secured the green Sprint Ace jersey. James Williamson also finished strongly with fourth place and PowerNet was the leader in the teams classification.

Brad was pipped on the line for second in the 148km stage into Te Anau on Wednesday. Oddy crashed at over 60km/hr just before the climb up Coronet Peak after being out in the breakaway for 170km. Brad was our top finisher on Thursday after backing up from Wednesday's efforts.

PowerNet were prominent during the week and were in the "break" every day with Oddy on Tuesday, Brad on Wednesday, Oddy again on Thursday with Tim and Roman again on Friday and Saturday. Oddy and Roman were second and third respectively in the Sprint Ace and Roman third in the King Of The Mountains classification. Brad was our leading general classification rider finishing 20th, 6:36 minutes behind the winner. PowerNet finished eighth in the Teams Classification.



Left to Right: Alaister Marshall, Jim Phair, Brad Evans, Tim Rush, Roman van Uden, James Williamson, Paul Odlin, Alex Ray and Aaron Sinclair

## Orange Umbrella – Safety climate project

PowerNet has completed its first safety culture assessment using the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) championed Safety Climate Project.

"Since its inception three years ago this project has focused on field workers, with employees from both Power Services Limited (PSL) and Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) employees involved," PowerNet quality services manager Graeme Webby says.

"PowerNet is one of the first network management companies to be involved."

Graeme says completing the survey questionnaire resulted in an overall assessment of our current workplace safety culture.

"This assessment was presented to all staff in a series of workshops, where the issues raised by the assessment were discussed and categorised. An action planning workshop was then held with leaders and a cross section of staff to categorise the issues and formulate action plans for improvement," he says.

Graeme says Power Services employees undertook their fourth survey following the PowerNet survey and a joint action planning workshop revealed that most of the areas for improvement were common to both companies. It was agreed at this workshop that a joint action committee would drive the action plans for improvement.

The five common areas for improvement were:

1. Resourcing - the right people in the right position
2. Consistent standards and practice
3. Communication, information and feedback
4. Enabled, empowered, engaged staff
5. Conflicting drivers and direction

## Fundamentals of electricity training

The various legislative requirements, regulatory aspects and general arcane nature of the electricity industry are now open for all PowerNet staff to see, thanks to a topic added to the staff induction training programme.

"When staff commence employment, they may have knowledge in particular areas, but this course is about teaching them about the whole electricity industry so they understand how it all fits together," human resources manager Trish Hazlett says.

"This two-day programme will now become an annual event as part of all staff members' induction."

The course, delivered by Brightstar Training, covers everything from electricity generation to electricity regulation. It includes the history of electricity in New Zealand and simplifies general electrical terms.

"Some people will be semi-aware of some of the programme, but not of others," Trish says. "The Fundamentals training gives everyone an excellent overview of the industry."

From 2014, all new staff will go through the Fundamentals training programme.

## Southland Warm Homes Trust

The work of the Southland Warm Homes Trust (SWHT) is to continue after funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) was approved earlier this year.

The SWHT, in conjunction with EECA, has carried out insulation and heating retrofits in over 6,000 Southland and West Otago homes since 2008.

The latest round of funding under EECA's Healthy Homes Programme is targeted at those who stand to benefit most from having their homes insulated, those being low income households with high health needs, including families with children and the elderly. Landlords with eligible tenants are also included but will be required to make a contribution.

To be eligible, homes must have been built prior to 1 January 2000, occupants must have a Community Services Card and occupants with high health needs must be referred through an approved referral service.

In addition to the continued EECA/SWHT programme, SWHT and Awarua Synergy are also offering a subsidy of up to \$2,000 to middle income families to undertake insulation and heating retrofits.

Funding for	Insulation Contribution		
	EECA	SWHT	Home Owner
Residential dwelling built prior to 1 January 2000, and Community Services Card (CSC) holders with one or more occupants under 17 years or over 65 years or who have a medical referral	60%	40%	*FREE*
Landlords with CSC holding tenants with one or more occupants under 17 years or over 65 years or who have a medical referral	60%	15%	25%
		SWHT	Awarua Synergy
Qualifying middle income families		\$800	\$1,200

## PowerNet participates in softball fundraiser

Ten PowerNet staff, along with family members, took on the Southland women's softball team in a social game played at Surrey Park in Invercargill on Sunday 17 November.

The annual fundraising event was supported by the PowerNet team consisting of Steve Labes, Scott Murch, Waric Cross and son Regan, Shirley Whitaker, Lynley Hall, Phil Hartley and son Quinn, Peter Eastwood, Justin Peterson and Jim Phair.

PowerNet office administrator Victoria Ward gave the team a 15 minute coaching session prior to the game to bring everyone up to speed.

Southland women's softball team member Victoria was previously a member of the Canterbury women's development squad prior to her move south last year.

"It has been great to get back into the sport I love and brilliant that staff from PowerNet were keen to support the fundraising event," Victoria said.

The team enjoyed their hour-long game, and there is talk of the team keen to challenge the Invercargill City Council to a game in the future.



Victoria Ward coaching Waric Cross and Scott Murch

## Carter's Hero

It's not often a firefighter gets knocked off the most respected profession list, but little Carter Middlemiss did just that, choosing his Power Services line mechanic uncle Jonathan Willis over his own dad Daniel.

Carter (6), a pupil at Donovan Primary School, had to come up with a poster for school that showed someone they admired.

Dad Daniel, a fireman, thought he was in with a chance until Carter picked Jonathan.

Carter's poster, "My Uncle Jonathan – Linesman and Super Hero!" outlined why he admired his uncle.

"I think linesmen are like super heroes for power; they look after it and fix it when it gets broken," says the big poster, which includes a safety message and pictures of Jonathan at work.

Jonathan went along to Donovan Primary School and spoke to Carter's class about his job and safety around electricity, which further enhanced his "most respected" status.

Carter says the poster was pretty "easy to do" and that he thought Uncle Jonathan was "happy" with the final result.

As to whether being a line mechanic is in his future plans, dad Daniel is hoping for a fireman, but Carter is leaning towards being a policeman...still, plenty of time to change his mind, eh?



Jonathan Willis and nephew Carter Middlemiss

## Crowe Horwath Corporate Cycling

The PowerNet 'Kilo Volts' cycling team consisting of Justin Peterson, Blair Bernard, Dyson Gentle, Rob Tweedie, Victoria Ward, Rachel Kincaid and Shirley Whitaker took on 29 local businesses in this year's Crowe Horwath Corporate Pursuit held at Stadium Southland on 11 August.

The team rode against Colac Bay Tavern, Waihopai Health, McIntyre Dick and the ILT Speight's Ale House and got a win against Waihopai Health.

The prize giving proved successful for PowerNet with Dyson winning a Ricoh cycling top and Alaister Marshall (team manager) winning the major spot prize of a Giant commuter bike.

This year the Lone Star/Speight's Corporate Roller Racing challenge event was introduced and held on July 24. The challenge involved teams of four riders each racing a 500m distance and the cumulative team times recorded. The team rode well with Victoria as an individual qualifying through to the women's final and successfully winning her section. Congratulations to Victoria on her win.



Rob Tweedie, Victoria Ward, Justin Peterson, Dyson Gentle

## Corpor8 Rowing Challenge

The PowerNet crew of Rob Tweedie, Justin Peterson, Scott Murch, Victoria Ward, Steve Labes, Rachel Kincaid, Nathan Donnelly, Shirley Whitaker, Dyson Gentle and coxswain Annabelle McCoy got a well deserved placing in the Corpor8 Rowing Challenge in mid-November.

Conditions were favourable for competitive racing with this year's challenge held at Invercargill's Oreti River on Saturday 16 November.

GIS Technician Shirley Whitaker co-ordinated the eight week training sessions which included a mixture of rowing both early mornings and late afternoons. Shirley says that with the assistance from coach Dougal McDonald skills and confidence was gained by the two novice rowers, Victoria and Justin.

"Rowing is a great team building sport. It's terrific to see staff return back to the sport to participate for another year. It's also great to introduce new staff to the sport." Shirley says.

Race day brought many lively, vocal supporters to the river, with tents and BBQs, colourful hats and costumes.

The crew gained a third place in their first race, second in their repechage, fourth in their semi-final and a close third in the D Final.

PowerNet gained an overall placing of 15<sup>th</sup> out of 25 crews.



Annabelle McCoy, Shirley Whitaker, Justin Peterson, Steve Labes, Rachel Kincaid, Victoria Ward, Rob Tweedie, Dyson Gentle (absent Nathan Donnelly)

## Wedding celebrations

Congratulations to Dyson Gentle who married Andie Dillion in Cromwell on Saturday 28 September. The happy couple then spent their honeymoon holidaying around the West Coast and Canterbury.

From all of us at PowerNet we wish you many happy years together.



Andie and Dyson Gentle

## Congratulations to -

**Phil Hartley** Technical engineer on completing his National Diploma in Engineering (Electrotechnology) Level 6.

**Lauren Ridder** Senior accounts administrator for completing her New Zealand Diploma in Business.

## Farewell and good luck to -

**Jim Dowling** who assisted the ICT team over an eight-week period in July whilst Scott Murch enjoyed his OE experience.

## A final congratulations goes to -

Our photography contractor **James Jubb** for winning two silver and two bronze awards in the commercial category of the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photography Iris awards.

PowerNet assisted James win one of the silver medals with his successful entry of the 2011 PowerNet cycling team.



2011 PowerNet Tour of Southland Cycling Team