

December 2015

# ACROSS *the* LINES

## Christmas Message



Jason Franklin

Once again, it has been an exceptional business year in the PowerNet world. Our year has been based, as it invariably is, around our people and our projects. Together, these two components have led to significant progress across every aspect of our business.

As part of this progress, you are all to be congratulated. The Senior Leadership Team, the networks' Boards and I thank you all for your efforts in making it a year to celebrate.

Four new substations were commissioned on the Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL) and The Power Company Limited (TPCL) networks, there was continuing substantial year-on-year growth in the Electricity Southland network.

Capital expenditure to enhance, upgrade or build new network assets was a key business focus for the network owners.

The commissioning of the Spey Street (EIL), Hedgehope, Athol, and Colyer Road (TPCL) Substations future-proofs electricity distribution to our customers for many years to come. For OtagoNet the Balclutha main street undergrounding has been a great success.

EIL and TPCL have also undertaken considerable investments in the Southern Generation partnership. The two wind farms – at Mt Stuart near Balclutha and at Flat Hill near Bluff along with Aniwhenua, a hydro powerstation in the Bay of Plenty, illustrate our commitment to renewable energy generation.

The installation of smart meters on the EIL and TPCL networks continues at pace, as do many other projects making our assets safe, efficient and reliable.

These projects together make up the bulk of the tens of millions of dollars our network owners have spent in 2015 and will continue to spend to keep the PowerNet-managed networks at the forefront of electricity distribution for years to come.

2015 has also been a year of change. PowerNet Board Chair Maryann Macpherson stepped down after completing her three year term and has been replaced by Ross Smith. Maryann has led our company through a challenging time, but one of considerable change and growth.

I would highlight her leadership in the takeover of the OtagoNet Joint Venture, her support with the intergration of the network management and contracting companies, and her commitment to ensuring PowerNet provides a safe work environment for our team. Maryann has been tremendous support for me and I am pleased she remains a director on our Board.

Continuing with the people and change themes, 2015 saw the start of the integration of Otago Power Services Limited into PowerNet. My thanks to Justin Peterson for managing this process, and to the staff who have supported him. This process is not quite complete, but we are now essentially one company, working towards the same goals.

These goals have been driven by our commitment to Business Improvement through Lean management and our ongoing visioning for the future. The Shared Vision leadership courses, combined with Individual Vision workshops, are setting the tone for a cohesive company.

Our staff are our greatest asset and our shop window to our customers. We are supporting staff with personal and professional development, and I welcome the company-wide introduction of the Health, Safety and Environment Passport to enhance our commitment to safety.

It is also great to see the establishment of the PowerNet social club has also been a success with almost 100 members already.

PowerNet is also looking after our communities. Two new defibrillators were donated to St John for Bluff and Frankton this year, and the St John in Schools programme sponsored by PowerNet to date has seen 3,683 children learn valuable first aid skills to support our goal to have a first responder in every household across our networks.

We also had an excellent win in the Tour of Southland this year, with PowerNet Team rider Brad Evans grabbing the lead after stage 2 and never letting it go.

In all, 2015 was a busy and productive year. I would like to thank to you all for your contribution.

Enjoy your time with your friends and family. See you all in 2016.



Jason Franklin  
Chief Executive

Safe | Efficient | Reliable  
Power to Communities

## Southern Generation Quadruples Output

The new Southern Generation Limited Partnership has quadrupled its renewable electricity generation with the purchase of the Aniwhenua hydro power station.

"Since the partnership began in April 2015, the goal was always that the generation assets would be grown. We began with the Mount Stuart Wind Farm inland from Milton and the new Flat Hill Wind Farm near Bluff," PowerNet Chief Executive Jason Franklin says.

"In August, we became aware of a North Island hydro power station, Aniwhenua, which was being sold by Nova Energy, a subsidiary of Todd Corporation. PowerNet and Pioneer investigated the potential to purchase Aniwhenua and add it to the Southern Generation business."

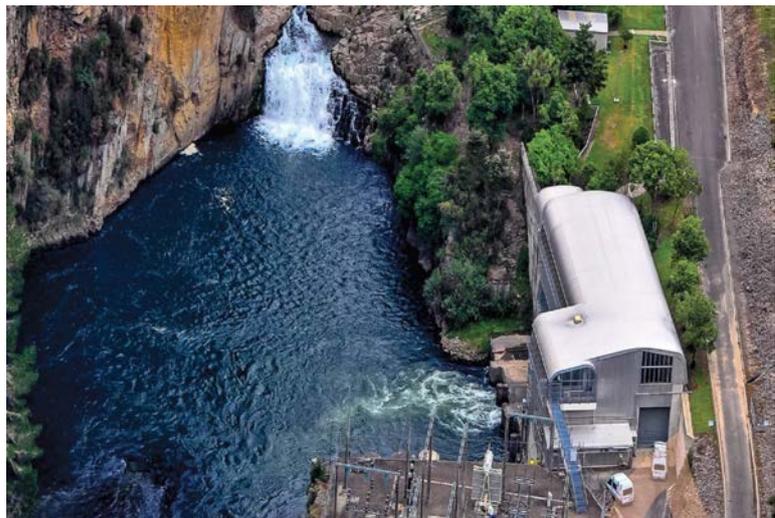
Southern Generation Limited partners Electricity Invercargill (EIL), The Power Company (TPCL) and Pioneer Generation (Pioneer) were announced as the new owners in late November.

"This is a significant strategic purchase for Southern Generation and its partners. It increases Southern Generation's annual electricity production from 47 GWh per annum to 174 GWh," Jason says.

Aniwhenua is one of a number of hydro stations located on the Rangataiki River in the Bay of Plenty. It was originally built and commissioned by Bay of Plenty Electricity in 1981 and acquired by the Todd Corporation and Nova Energy in 1998. The station comprises two 12.5MW generation units and produces on average 127 GWh pa.

Southern Generation has contracted Pioneer to operate the station, as it does with the two wind farms.

"For our shareholders, EIL and TPCL, this additional investment further diversifies and expands their electricity industry investments. Investing in quality electricity distribution and renewable generation assets is the strategy that PowerNet is managing for our shareholders. Aniwhenua fits well with this investment strategy," Jason says.



Aniwhenua Hydro Station

## Leadership And Vision Workshops

PowerNet's Leadership Programme has continued to deliver valuable professional and personal development to staff in 2015.

"The second cohort of participants in the Leadership Programme for 2015 finished with their graduation on the 23rd of November, resulting in 24 people completing the course for the year," PowerNet Human Resources Advisor Faye McLeod says.

A range of participants from various parts of the company completed the programme during the year, learning skills and tools to develop and enhance their leadership abilities and to provide them with professional and personal development, she says.

"The groups learn practical and research based ideas to build their leadership 'tool kit' as well as learning about their personal leadership purpose and vision."

Faye says the Leadership Programme will continue next year with the first group starting their journey early in 2016.

As well as the Leadership Programme, the PowerNet Individual Vision Workshops have been happening throughout the 2015 year

"All staff have had the opportunity to attend the workshops, either with their team or as part of the Orientation Workshops for new staff," Faye says.



Zariaha Carman

Workshops were held either in Balclutha or Invercargill, depending on where the participants were based.

"The purpose of the Individual Vision Workshops is to follow on from the team vision and purpose workshops held last year and looked at individual personal purpose and vision and how these align with the company and team's visions and values," Faye says.

She says the workshops will be on-going and held as needed for all new staff and also those who may have missed the opportunity throughout 2015.

## Waikiwi Substation Upgrade Begins

There's been plenty of projections, crowds of consultation, oodles of organising, and now the Waikiwi Substation upgrade is underway.

The platform for the new transformer has been prepared and the building wall panels have been installed to allow the floor reinforcing to be put in and the floor of the building to be poured at the end of November.

"It's a big job, but all our contractors are working hard to keep the project on schedule," PowerNet Project Manager Roger Scott says.

Decom is the main contractor on this upgrade to ensure security and reliability of supply to TPCL customers. Other works are being carried out by Donaldson Construction, Smith Cranes, Southern Transport, and Arnott Drainage.

Roger says the project has a year to run before commissioning, but the first transformer was going to be operational around Easter 2016.

"The transformer is in storage at Racecourse Road. It's an 11.5-23 MVA transformer which we are planning to move to the substation in mid-February 2016. The first transformer (T1 Bank) will be commissioned on 29th April 2016 this will then complete Stage 1," he says.

The PowerNet team was extremely mindful of causing as little disruption to local residents as possible, and Roger says communication has been key to their plans.

"We have been proactive in putting out a weekly newsletter which is sent to Council and the residents around the substation on Friday afternoons. This advises the residents of works planned for the next week and possibly noise or vehicle movements to and from the site."

Upcoming works will include completing the building and moving the transformer into the new building, installing 33kV and 11kV cabling and commissioning the first transformer, Roger says.

The proposed improvement works are to replace the existing transformers with quieter transformers inside an architecturally-designed building to further to reduce the noise levels.

PowerNet, Director and TPCL customer Sarah Brown has visited the upgrade site.

"This upgrade will improve system security and power supply to the Waikiwi area," Sarah says.

This improvement will also allow the removal of barbed wire from neighbouring property fences and enclose the transformers for safety, sound and aesthetic improvement, as well as beautifying the grounds.



Sean O'Connor (PowerNet), Phil Johnston (Decom) and Sarah Brown (Director, PowerNet)

## The Lean PowerNet Machine Gets A New Manager



Rachael Watt

Think lean and you think of drill sergeant-type personal trainers, early morning starts, and sore muscles.

That's not quite what Balclutha-based new Business Improvement Manager Rachael Watt has in mind as she takes on her new role overseeing PowerNet's progress.

"Business improvement is the Lean Manufacturing principles, but also a lot more," Rachael says. "There's the 5S phases: sort, straighten, shine, standardise, and sustain. There are our Information Centres...pulling all this together to enhance our continuous improvement culture is what my new role is all about."

Rachael, who has been based at our Balclutha office since 2008, was appointed to her new role in November and is part of the Senior Leadership Team.

"Work on Lean is already underway. A 5S team has been established and the first of three training sessions on 5S was held in November. The teams are currently working on their pilot areas with the feedback being very positive so far. One of the keys to the success of this programme is continuing the momentum. This will be a part of my role going forward," she says.

PowerNet Chief Executive Jason Franklin says the new role was necessary to keep PowerNet at the forefront of total quality management.

"Continuous improvement is even more important with the increased size of the business, with the amalgamation of PowerNet and Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL). There are ample opportunities for us to improve how we operate and to apply that consistently across all our teams,

both field and office based," she says.

Rachael will remain in Balclutha and will continue to support the OPSL team in her previous company accountant role until the March 2016 amalgamation transition period is completed.

"I am extremely excited about my new role. I am looking forward to reviewing PowerNet business processes and working with staff involved to make improvements that will benefit individuals as well as the company overall."

"People are the most important part of any business. Since the start of the integration, I have met a lot of the office-based team at PowerNet. I aim to build on the relationships I have already formed, meet new people and find out more about their roles within PowerNet. As I am based in Balclutha, I will be visiting our other offices and depots on a regular basis."

## Do Your Bit To Prevent Fires This Summer

The Otago Rural Fire Authority attends around 600 fire related events during summer, and this year Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) is doing its bit to help.

A presentation by Steph Rotarangi, the Principal Rural Fire Officer at Otago Rural Fire Authority to OPSL staff has (excuse the pun) sparked our team into action to help prevent fires.

"Humans cause most of Otago's vegetation fires both through accidental ignitions (stone strikes) and not properly extinguishing their fires. Vegetation versus powerlines are the next biggest cause followed by lightning strikes," OPSL Vegetation and Compliance Manager Mark Way says.

"Steph's presentation to Balclutha staff gave us an awareness of the upcoming fire season, and the reasons to avoid a fire at all costs if possible."

Steph says the fire risks are increased in the dry Otago rural areas with the current weather patterns.

"Otago is already drier than this time last year and these conditions will worsen as the effects of the El Nino weather pattern take hold. It'll take very little for vegetation fires to start and if fires spread, they will be difficult to contain. Water supplies in rural areas are also likely to become very low. This is going to make it a difficult summer for our fire fighters," she says.

"The combination of wind, dry weather and dry vegetation is likely to increase the number and severity of fires that fire fighters will attend. Depending on the size of the fires there is likely to be some financial impacts for communities as well."

Steph says it is important to be prepared.



A recent vegetation fire at Saddle Hill

"Don't be complacent. The risk of vegetation fires is not only high in rural areas but is high for people living in towns and cities as well. Discuss an evacuation plan with your family and friends, including the route(s) you can take and where you will meet. If you see smoke dial 111 immediately," Mark says.

"Prevention is key. Avoid any activities that are likely to cause sparks or heat that can start a fire and make sure all machinery is correctly maintained. Think about undertaking activities that could cause an accidental ignition (such as mowing) in the cooler hours of the day."

He is also pushing a key PowerNet message - if trees or branches are close to power lines, contact your local network company to have them checked.

Mark Way says OPSL will be pushing the prevention message to OtagoNet and other network customers.

"We will be using the PowerNet website and internal /external flyers and we can work together with the Otago Rural Fire Authority at a number of levels," he says.

### If you live in rural areas please be aware of the following advice from the Otago Rural Fire Authority;

- Have a clear space of at least 10 metres around your home.
- Consider installing fire service couplings on your water tanks.
- Where possible keep your lawns mown and watered.
- Clean out your gutters by removing any leafy material.
- If trees or branches are close to power lines, contact your power company to have them checked.
- Make sure your RAPID number is easily seen and clear of obstructions
- Remember the 4 x 4 rule. Access ways must have a width and height clearance of at least four metres. If we can't get to you, we can't help you.

## Would You Like Fries With That?

PowerNet has done its bit to ensure you can get fries with whatever you like at the new South City McDonalds in Invercargill.

PowerNet, in conjunction with Decom and Bond Contracts Limited (BCL) made sure the newest addition to the global restaurant franchise was up and running by the opening day of November 20.

PowerNet Senior Customer Project Manager Blair Bernard says it takes a lot to make your favourite burger – not least of which is a reliable and secure power supply.

"Due to the capacity requirement of the new McDonalds, we installed a 200kVA transformer to supply the new installation. We also put in a new ring main unit that was required to bring the 11,000 volt supply down from Princes Street. This meant we needed to cut into the existing 11,000 volt cable and bring the new cable down Bowmont St to the transformer site," he says.

Decom project managed the build, with PowerNet Field Services installing the transformer and ring main unit on the site. BCL did the trenching and installing of the new cables.

"We got the work completed and supply connected within two weeks which was a fantastic effort given the short time frame," Blair says. "Everyone should be proud of a job well done."

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## Tracksuit Inc

PowerNet is committed to improving the health and well-being of staff and their families, and so in line with a growing trend, we launched Tracksuit Inc to all staff in October this year.

"Tracksuit Inc is a web based programme available for staff and their families to provide the tools and support to enhance their own and their family's health and well-being. There are lots of ideas, articles and fun challenges to keep you motivated while educating you on healthy living and exercise," PowerNet's Human Resources Advisor Faye McLeod says.

It has been successful so far, with many staff having a look at the site and a growing number signing up.

"We've had 2,730 hits on the website in the last month, with 13 taking up the latest challenge and about 20% of staff have completed the health questionnaire so far," Faye says.

The Tracksuit Inc concept offers a range of health and well-being benefits.

"This is a great programme which gives everyone health tools, research, special events and challenges and discounts on health related services. You can log in, have a go at any of the challenges and research at your own pace, in your own time. There are interesting ideas, articles and recipes on the website and access to confidentially ask an expert on any topic related to the 10 healthy habits. By completing the health questionnaire, you can get feedback on your health status and there are always competitions and great prizes to be won," Faye says.

Tracksuit Inc is owned by a company called Synergy Health who have been providing this service to businesses throughout NZ for several years. Various companies throughout NZ have taken up the challenge, including another in the electricity industry. Synergy Health is based in Christchurch with a team ranging from nutritionists, doctors to other health professionals dedicated to providing the material and advice to Tracksuit.

Don't forget to check out the website [www.tracksuitinclive.co.nz](http://www.tracksuitinclive.co.nz)



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## Corys Raise 20 Years With PowerNet

It's been 20 years and the relationship between PowerNet and our longest-serving equipment supplier stays as strong as ever.

In 1995 Corys Electrical took over the procurement of materials from PowerNet and after a short time Corys moved (the store) from Racecourse Road to Onslow Street where Barry Dick became the Branch Manager.

Barry is still the Branch Manager and the relationship between the two companies was celebrated at a function in Invercargill in November.

"Barry and his team at Onslow Street are always 100% committed to providing the best service to PowerNet and sometimes Corys Regional General Manager Wayne Reddecliffe needs to remind Barry that he actually works for Corys and not PowerNet!" PowerNet Chief Executive Jason Franklin says.

Mr Reddecliffe echoes the mutual appreciation.

"A strong partnership for Corys is one which has integrity, honesty, is mutually rewarding and one which can adopt to suit either businesses at any stage. This is what we have today with PowerNet," he says.

He also congratulated Barry Dick on another milestone.

"Corys Electrical are also pleased to congratulate Barry Dick on his 30th Anniversary with Corys."

"Barry is a vital part of the Corys business and he is appreciative of the relationships that he holds with PowerNet employees today," Wayne says.



## Barley, Wheat, Peas And....Power Poles?

Cereal crops, legumes, and electricity don't naturally go together. However, in the Riversdale to Lumsden 33kV pole replacement project, the three have been closely knit.

"Over the line route, there are many cropping farms - barley, wheat and peas in the main - which has proved problematic to accessing many pole sites as the window of opportunity to access the land is only available for about four to eight weeks," PowerNet Senior Project Manager Barrie Duffin says.

"Luckily, Murray Dickie from Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) Balclutha has liaised closely with the farmers to ensure every opportunity to get into crop paddocks is taken when it arises."

Barrie says the Riversdale to Lumsden 33kV is being replaced with a 66kV line to allow for future growth in the region.

"I am pleased with how everything has gone. Though relatively straight forward from a construction perspective, most larger size jobs will throw you a curve ball or two but we have managed to dodge most of them. This is in no small part due to Murray and his team," he says.

Of the 228 poles in the project, OPSL crews and Castle Rock Contracting have managed to stand 133 so far.

"There are 40 odd poles still to stand in the first section and a further 32 in the section from the Nine Mile tee to the Riversdale Substation that will be stood before the end of March and we have to wait for the next break in the cropping cycle to stand another 21 poles. This should start about the end of February early March but could go into April and possible May subject to crops and weather." Barrie says.

There is also about 20 kilometres of conductor still to be restrained. Murray and his team will be kept busy well into the New Year.

## Playing Safe In Cyberspace

PowerNet and OPSL staff gained valuable lessons on staying safe in cyberspace from Internet Safety and Risk Assessment Consultant John Parsons during September and November.

The workshops were aimed at better staff awareness of cyber risks both at work and outside of work.

"The idea of running the workshops was to make staff aware of their responsibilities with regard to use of company Information Technology (IT) equipment (including mobiles) inside and outside of their work environment, but it was more than that," PowerNet IT Manager Waric Cross says.

"Personal safety, keeping your kids and family safe online and avoiding other internet nasties were all covered by John and the feedback we have had on his sessions was really positive."

Waric says both at home and in business, safety on the Net is more than just ensuring the

appropriate use of information technology.

"These days, businesses rely on keeping our information and company data safe – the analogy would be not going out without locking your front door, and the same is true of cyberspace – we not only want to make sure our people are safe, but that our data is safe."

"Simple things like opening suspicious attachments to emails can expose PowerNet to a range of issues – and while we have safeguards in place, if you're not sure, talk to me or the IT team first," Waric says.



John Parsons presenting the Cyberspace workshop to staff at Racecourse Road

### STAFF COMMENTS

Andrea said - *"The presentation with John was super this morning. He is a great guy and I think all the lads have learnt a lot, as have I."*

Rob said - *"Thanks Waric, this was a real eye opener even though I already had a bit of knowledge on the topic. It's great that PowerNet shares this knowledge base with staff."*

Janis said - *"Just wanted to say thank you for arranging to have John Parsons speak to us on the IT issues that companies and mostly individuals are having to cope with in today's world."*

## Development Update On The Electricity Southland Network

Electricity Southland Limited's (ESL) network partnership with the Remarkables Park businesses and the shopping centre continues to grow with the reticulation now completed for the new 16 apartment residential complex to be built behind the shopping centre on Cherry Blossom Avenue.

Current construction in the park comprises of the Ramada Inn Hotel on Red Oaks Drive, scheduled for completion in May 2016 plus an adjacent retail/ office space building alongside.

Eight new entertainment businesses will also be built in the in the recreational precinct on Hawthorne Drive.

### SHOTOVER PARK

Construction work on the second commercial building at the Shotover Park Development is now under way.

The new Pak n Save supermarket is part of the 35 lot commercial subdivision in Frankton situated adjacent to SH 6 at Glenda Drive.

PowerNet Project Manager Chris Way says the Mitre 10 Mega store moved from their smaller premises in the Remarkables Park shopping complex to its new 'mega' premises at Shotover Park.

The subdivision will also connect to Remarkables Park through the new Eastern Access Road when it is constructed.

### SHOTOVER COUNTRY

The Shotover Country subdivision continues to grow with reticulation currently being installed in stage 10.

Part of the new Shotover Primary school opened at the beginning of 2015, catering for students from years 1 to 4. Construction of the school hall and completion of the remaining classrooms will allow the school to take students up to year 8 at the start of the 2016 school year.

Network design is currently in progress for Stage 12.

Fifteen stages are proposed to complete the Shotover Country development.



The site where the new entertainment businesses will be built at Remarkables Park



The site at Shotover Park where the new Pak n Save is to be built



The new school hall at Shotover Country Subdivision

## ComplEat Wellness Wins New And Emerging Business Award

Congratulations to the ComplEat Wellness team for winning the PowerNet New and Emerging Business Award at the 2015 Southland Business Awards.

PowerNet General Manager Business Support, Tim Brown says this is the second year for the category sponsorship by PowerNet.

"The bi-annual event organised by The Southland Chamber of Commerce was held in September at the Ascot Park Hotel," Tim says.

"We are proud to be associated with this prestigious event. Being a sponsor of the awards is important to PowerNet. The awards are about recognising and celebrating successful businesses in the South. This success does not need to relate to financial results; it could be about staff achievements and innovations," he says.

The ComplEat Wellness shop is in Invercargill's Windsor suburb. The company has been trading for two years and specialises in healthy options for better living.

Co-owner Leisa Cournane says winning PowerNet's new and emerging business award has been a milestone for their company.

"It has been great to get recognition for the hard work we have all put in. It is important for us to celebrate successes along the way. The awards dinner was a great way to do this and winning the PowerNet New and Emerging category was the icing on the cake. We want to say thanks to PowerNet and the Chamber of Commerce," Leisa says.



PowerNet General Manager Business Support Tim Brown with ComplEat Wellness management and staff, Dale Cournane, Leisa Cournane, Guy Bellerby and Leeanne Hall

# ACROSS<sup>the</sup>LINES

## Defibrillators Donated To Communities

Over the last two months the Bluff and Frankton communities have benefited from donations from their electricity network owners of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Heartstart FRx (AED) donations are part of a three year partnership between PowerNet and St John. The sponsorship agreement includes the annual gifting of AEDs to communities on behalf of the managed networks, including Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL) and Electricity Southland Limited (ESL).

PowerNet Director Duncan Fea says this is the second year of the partnership which is aimed at improving public safety and first aid education in the southern region.

"For the network owners, it is fantastic to be working so closely with St John, rolling out AEDs to the towns and provincial areas around our region. It is a great way that businesses living and operating in communities can assist," Duncan says.

Bluff's AED has been installed in a locked box and is publicly available 24/7 outside the Challenge Bluff service station. Frankton's AED is in place on the counter at BP Connect.

Duncan says the reaction from the communities receiving the donations has been overwhelming.

"It was fantastic to see BP Connect provided with the AED. Manager Karina Gaudin was excited for her station to be part of the local area offering the community lifesaving opportunities. Karina beamed from ear to ear when the AED was presented to her," he says.

"It is important for the public to have access to community AEDs as this can mean the difference between life and death. The AEDs are fully portable and have an automatic voice prompt to assist the user through the rescue procedure," Duncan says.



Left to right: Ian Rae (St John), Karina Gaudin (BP Connect), Duncan Fee (ESL Director), Hannah Gee and Kelvin Perriman (St John)



EIL Director Darren Ludlow

## 2015 Southland Transport Invercargill Truck Parade

Thanks to Joseph Reti and Gene Brookland for participating in the annual Southland Transport Invercargill Truck Parade held in October. What a great opportunity to see our PowerNet vehicles amongst the large convoy of Southland trucks.



PowerNet's bucket truck

## PowerNet's Tour of Southland Winner

PowerNet Team rider Brad Evans got the blue PowerNet jersey home in first place to win November's 59th annual Tour of Southland.

The PowerNet 2015 team of Evans (Dunedin), Adrian Hegyvary (USA), Robert Huisman (Invercargill), Tim Rush (Oamaru), Edgar Nohales (Spain) and Roman Van Uden (Auckland) rode like champions once Evans took the leader's yellow jersey on stage 2, PowerNet team manager Aaron Sinclair says.

"Brad was in yellow from stage 2 till the end and won by 1.11 minutes. It was always the game plan to ride for Brad to win the tour. This was discussed at a team meeting on the Saturday night before the race," Aaron says.

"We were going to review this plan after the Bluff stage on Tuesday, but as Brad won this stage and took the yellow the plan was reinforced and all our energy went into defending the yellow jersey."

Roman had an exceptional ride on Stage one. He basically rode away from the whole field with one other rider in what were some of the strongest winds ever experienced on the Tour of Southland and then to win a sprint finish was phenomenal.

Over the week-long Tour all the team rode their hearts out for Brad, exchanging turns on the front of the bunch to keep the race under control, then Brad turned himself inside out to climb Bluff Hill and Coronet Peak when under real pressure from the other teams.

"The race came down to the individual time trial on the last day where Brad had a 14 second lead over the second place getter. Brad chased down this guy in the time trial to add 57 seconds and totally demoralise his opposition and the tour was won," Aaron says.

He said it was a great victory and could not have been achieved without a great support crew.

"Many thanks to the support team of Jim, Alaister, Steve, Tony, Waric, Kathryn, Paul and Neville, and a special thanks to the people who cooked the evening meals - Marie, Trish, Jim, and Alaister, and also a big thanks to team mechanic James Olvanhill from Alexandra," Aaron says.



PowerNet's 2015 SBS Bank Tour winner Brad Evans



The 2015 PowerNet Team

## 2015 TradeQual

The 10th Annual TradeQual awards were held on 12 November at the Ascot Park Complex in Invercargill.

The Southland TradeQual dinner provides an opportunity for Southland trade graduates who have recently completed a National Certificate qualification to celebrate with trade industries, families, friends and employers.

This year 14 PowerNet and Otago Power Services Limited employees attended the graduation, each gaining their electrical trade qualification.

PowerNet General Manager Technical and Network Performance Keith Burns says it was an honour to attend the awards and watch our staff receiving recognition for their studies.



A few of the Power Net TradeQual attendees Murray Hamilton, John Maginn, Ray Cuthbert, Craig O'Callaghan and Phil Johnson

# ACROSS*the*LINES

## What's Happening Around The Depots?

**Winton Depot** are mostly concentrating on low wire jobs and maintenance jobs around the Orawia, Tuatapere and Papatotara area. The team have also been repairing the network damage caused by the big winds experienced over the two month period.

The Depot's two new trainees have commenced work and are slotting into their roles and the team well.

The new Mitsubishi Fuso double cab crew truck has arrived, been stocked and will be a valuable addition to the Winton fleet.

**Lumsden Depot** have completed two pole upgrades in Kingston to allow for two new connections to the The Power Company Limited network.

The team have also been working on maintenance and repairs as a result of the winds.

**Gore Depot** has a Balclutha line crew led by Murray Dickie carrying out the rebuild of the Lumsden - Riversdale 33kV line and work is progressing very well on this project.

Crews led by Mark Isaacs are completing maintenance in the Mona Bush area.

Travis Bastiaansen's team have been working on the installation of Tie Switches in the Edievale area.

Reece Stephenson's team are installing a new supply to a dairy unit at Old Coach Road and is also installing a new supply to cottages and a new irrigator at Wendonside.

All other work underway is being completed by Jason Richardson which includes HV maintenance, red tagged poles and the repair of low wires.

### **Onslow Street Depot**

**The Field Teams** have been working on storm repairs, low voltage clearances and repairs and maintenance of feeders.

**The Technical Team** have been working on replacing the transformer and switchgear at Sub 504. The sub on the Doon Street Invercargill City Council Reserve needed an upgrade of switching equipment due to switching restrictions.

A new 1000kVA transformer has been placed on its concrete pad at ASB House (the commercial building owned by Calder Stewart Group) situated on the corner of Don and Deveron Streets. The Halo switchgear is currently in the workshop being prepared for installation onsite in the New Year.

Low voltage work is currently happening around the Feldwick Gates/ Museum area and Doon and Don Streets. This work is to support the new Spey Street Substation.

A transformer on the corner of Rockdale and Tramway Roads has just been moved off private property. The transformer was situated on private property and had a HV cable fault. The decision was made to replace and move the transformer to a more suitable position.

The teams have also been assisting South Port with a cable fault.

**Te Anau Depot** with the help from the Winton and Lumsden teams have been working at Blackmount on a large maintenance job. Assistance has also come from the OPSL teams on cleaning up after the wind damage to the network. Mike and his team would like to thank OPSL guys for their assistance with the repair work they provided.

**Ranfurly and Palmerston Depot** staff are working on the Puketoi 33kV line build and also the Kyeburn 11kV new line build. Work is also continuing on the low wires and red tagged poles.



*Winton Depot's new Mitsubishi Fuso double cab*



*The Lumsden team erecting a new pole at Kingston*



*Peter Guise and Jason Nicolson at Sub 504*

**Balclutha Depot** - Along with the completion of the Clyde Street undergrounding (see next story), the team at Balclutha are also working on the River Road 11kV project. The project is approximately 50% completed to date and is progressing well. A new Viper Circuit Breaker installation is underway south of Clinton on the Waipahi section of line. All other work underway involves the replacement of red tagged poles and the repair of low wires.

## Balclutha Undergrounding Nears Completion

The last of the light poles were installed in Balclutha's Clyde Street in early December ready for the road to be resealed prior to Christmas.

PowerNet Distribution Services Manager East Terry Jones says the work should be largely completed by mid-December and the street tidied ready for Balclutha's Christmas shopping.

"Our aim was to make the main street tidy for people to enjoy their Christmas shopping. Any minor finishing work will have to be left until next year" Terry says.

The work completed by Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) involved laying one kilometre of low voltage underground cable the length of Clyde Street from the town hall to the south end of the central business area.

"OPSL work started well as we tried to keep in front of the main roading contractors. We had the odd 'hiccup' along the way but it has all come together in this last month or so. There was a vast improvement as the old lines and poles were removed," Terry says.



Clyde Street-before



Clyde Street-after

Terry would like to thank OPSL Contract Manager Russel Carr and his team on a job well done.

## Stewart Island To Increase Reliability Of Supply

The Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) network is about to receive an improvement in the reliability of their power supply.

The Southland District Council (SDC) and the Stewart Island Community Board have recently approved the installation of underground cabling from the Powerhouse to Oban township.

PowerNet General Manager Technical and Network Performance Keith Burns says the objective is to secure the power supply and remove any future risk from tree strikes.

"The new underground cable will be supplied from the Powerhouse generators and also from the new emergency generator. The emergency generator is installed in a separate building and has a separate control system. The cable installation project will commence in January 2016," Keith says.

### Other Projects completed on the Island

With the purchase and installation of the new generator earlier in the year, a new three-bay Pole-shed building was constructed to house the new generator and the fleet trucks.

"We also installed two new tanks; a new Day-tank to replace the old model and a new 25,000 litre water supply tank which will improve the fire-fighting capability," Keith says.

The removal of the encroaching vegetation surrounding the SIESA network equipment, which has been a huge focus, was also completed. The removal will reduce the risk of power cuts and also reduce the risk of fire from tree-strike arcing.

A big step forward for the network was made when the SDC requested PowerNet inspect all the assets and record all the details of the existing network onto PowerNet's Geographic Information System (GIS).

The old SDC GIS system had not been updated for several years and the SDC decided it was preferred to have PowerNet to keep the system current.

"With an updated GIS system, the GPS location of all assets and equipment is accurately recorded and the condition assessment of the assets will be more detailed and up-to-date with nothing missed from the inspection program," Keith says.

Maintenance on the Powerhouse was also undertaken with the installation of a new roof as well painting the building.

With Christmas arriving in a few days, the two staff on the island deserve a well-earned break.



The new Day-tank



The Powerhouse

## PowerNet's Commitment To Working Safely

Safety is the cornerstone of the PowerNet Shared Vision.

The choices and actions we make at work can have a direct impact on the safety of not only ourselves but also our team mates and the public.

It is important we are aware of our commitment to safety at all times.

A recent development has been the Safety Commitment, outlining the twelve key areas which, if done right every time, will eliminate the vast majority of unsafe acts which could lead to injuries." PowerNet Chief Executive Jason Franklin says.

The Safety Commitment has been developed and reviewed by the PowerNet Senior Leaders, the Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Team, our Health and Safety Committees, as well as a lot of input from many PowerNet staff.

"I would like to thank all staff for their contribution," Jason says.

The Safety Commitment will form a key part of how PowerNet goes about its work and will be used as a guide for our workplace decisions.

"Let's continue to work together as a team to eliminate unsafe acts and therefore prevent injuries," says Jason.

The PowerNet Safety Commitment Posters are displayed around all PowerNet workplaces.



## IT Strategy Development And The Introduction Of The IT Steering Group

As part of the 2015 Business Plan a strategic review was carried out on Information Technology (IT) at PowerNet. The review focused on completing a maturity assessment on our approach to IT and then looked at what work would be needed to improve over the next three years.

PowerNet General Manager Business Support Tim Brown says interviews and assessments were carried out with the IT team and a number of other teams around the business by the consultancy firm Effectus. From these discussions, it became clear there was some immediate things that could be done to start the improvement journey.

"The formation of an Information Technology Steering Group (ITSG) is one such activity. It has been formed to help facilitate inter-department communication and the sharing and prioritising of IT projects as part of its project charter," Tim says.

The Group, chaired by PowerNet Chief Financial Officer Greg Buzzard, includes Kristie Bell (secretary), Daniel Wijkstra, Faye McLeod, Jim Phair, Joseph Reti, Mark Zwies, Rachael Watt, Richard Lee and Waric Cross.

It is also a sounding board for new initiatives and can provide recommendations to the Information Communications Technology (ICT) Governance Group (consisting of the Senior Leadership Team) on projects that should proceed (and possibly the priority) if there are a large number.

"The ITSG meet monthly to review progress on existing projects and to hear new ideas for new projects. While the ITSG can make recommendations, normally and ultimately the ICT Governance Group review most proposed projects (normally not business as usual) and approve these based on the annual business plan," Tim says.

As far as IT projects go, a four step process has been developed to assess and progress ideas and improvements across all of PowerNet.

### These include

#### Inception

- Discussion with Team
- Discussion with Manager
- Discussion with IT Manager
- All OK? Proceed to step 2

#### Requirements and scoping.

- ITSG member completes an initial ICT project template
- Statement of Work, quotes/estimates and project scope gathered
- Capital and Operational Budget compiled
- Take to member of project steering committee
- Discussed at ITSG - if proceeds then fully scoped and costed - if major project a business case may be required
- Added to project register. Proceed or on hold pending business case/annual plan approval

#### ITSG – Socialisation, communication and recommendation.

- Recommendations come from ITSG to IT Governance Group
- Business case prepared and presented. If approved will become part of the Business Plan

#### IT Governance Group and Business Plan

- Project requests outlined to the IT Governance Group during business planning
- Capital budget assigned as part of board Business Plan sign off

By following this process PowerNet will improve its approach to initiating IT projects and will have a greater visibility and understanding of what projects are proceeding and when they are likely to start.

## 2015 Rugby World Cup Competition

Rugby World Cup fever struck the PowerNet Offices and Depots during September and October.

PowerNet Human Resource Advisor Faye McLeod said the PowerNet competition included four categories.

"It was fantastic to see the offices and depots coming alive with team fever. The decorations around the building were all amazing," Faye says.

Congratulations go to the best dressed offices, depots and teams.

### Best dressed office

1st Finance Team (Racecourse Road) representing Ireland

2nd Customer Metering and Distribution Services Administration (Racecourse Road, Onslow Street and Balclutha) representing France

3rd Connection Team (Racecourse Road) representing Argentina

### Best dressed teams

1st Invercargill Depot: Shane Lawson's Team (Onslow Street Depot) representing Scotland

Gene Brookland's Team (Onslow Street Depot) representing England

Highly Commended: Finance Team (Racecourse Road) representing Ireland

Connections Team (Racecourse Road) representing Argentina

Customer Metering and Distribution Services (Racecourse Road, Onslow Street and Balclutha) representing France

Congratulations to the Connections Team (Racecourse Road) representing Argentina for their win of the third category for the most points gained during the Rugby World Cup (excluding the All Blacks).

Finally the fourth category winners, John Murphy's Team at the Onslow Street Depot representing Australia for the team that reached the final against the All Blacks.

"Thanks to everyone for stepping up and participating. It was great to see you all make the effort and get involved in our own world cup fever," Faye says.



## PowerNet's BBQ

The first PowerNet Social Club BBQ was held on the 17th October at the Marist Rugby Club in Invercargill.

Social Club President Helana Middlemiss said there was a good turnout of PowerNet staff and families.

"As a newly formed social club, this was our first event with around 40-45 members and partners attending throughout the course of the afternoon and evening. There were a few hits with the cricket bat early on, followed by an evening of good food, good music, good company and a good selection of card games," Helana says.

The Social Club wishes to thank John Murphy for organising the event, along with the rest of the club members who helped to make the event the success it was.

The PowerNet Social Club aims to organise four major events per year, with a good mixture of family and member only events.

Helana says that plans are already underway for upcoming events, one being a larger family focussed event prior to Easter 2016.

"This event will have games, competitions and a whole heap of fun. We are also looking into holding an event earlier in the New Year. We will be letting people know about it once the details are finalised," she says.

The club is always open to ideas and suggestions and they are happy to support more than the four planned major events per year.

"We would love to participate in more events and are always looking for keen people to help with the organising," she says.

Any further information on Social Club events and/or the Social Club itself, please contact Helana Middlemiss (Club President) or Faye McLeod (Club Secretary).

## 2015 Santa Parade

Thank you to everyone for their involvement in the Balclutha and Invercargill 2015 Santa Parades.

To the children and adults that participated in the parade, well done you looked great.

Finally, an extra BIG thanks go to Sharon Johnston (Onslow Street), Tara Unahi, Janis Waters and Rachael Watt (Balclutha) for organising everyone and everything on the parade days.



PowerNet staff and children from Racecourse Road and Onslow Street at the Southland Santa Parade



PowerNet and Otago Power Services staff and children at the Balclutha Santa Parade

## Move Over Boys Movember Is Not Just For You!

Historically, Movember has been focused as being a national fundraiser just for the male gender. Not so this year for the ladies at PowerNet and Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL).

PowerNet Customer, Metering and Distribution Administrator Fiona Mason said 20 PowerNet and OPSL ladies donned stick on moustaches and had their photos taken and donated to the fundraiser.

"The idea to participate came about when a group email from Gene Brookland (Onslow Street Depot Line Mechanic) was sent out inviting the company to participate in this year's event," she says.

A grand total of \$106 (NZ) and \$2 (AUD) was raised by the ladies. The funds had been given to Gene to donate to the charity on behalf of the female participants.

"It was great to see so many girls supporting the fundraiser, not only did we raise money we had a load of laughs along the way," Fiona says.

Gene was thrilled with the number of both male and female participants in this year's event.

"A grand total of \$158 had been donated to the Movember Foundation New Zealand. "I really want to thank everyone for their donations and support. I am looking forward to getting us involved again next year as it a lot of fun and for a good cause," Gene says.



Fiona Mason and Gene Brookland



The PowerNet girls from Racecourse Road and Onslow Street

## Smart Meter Update

The smart meter rollout is underway.

Over 3,500 smart meters have been installed across the EIL and TPCL networks since May, Smart Meter Deployment Project Manager Paul McCullagh says.

"The installations have mainly been in Invercargill, Gore, Te Anau and Winton with small numbers in many other smaller towns," he says.

Locally trained electricians working for PowerNet's two field installation management partners have been doing the installations, with the bulk of the meters being put in for Contact, Genesis and Meridian Energy customers.

"The biggest challenge now is to find qualified electricians to do the installation work required. Some of the installers are full time but most are part-time. We expect to have about 15-20 installers working as their numbers rise in the next few weeks," Paul says.

After a long period preparing the meter communications equipment and testing the meters, Paul said it was great to be underway.

"With any project of this size and technical complexity there have been a number of challenges to overcome. A few customers who have had a meter installed have commented on how easy the process was for them," he says.

The expected end date for the \$24-million installation project is March 2018.

## Drop – Cover – Hold

Taking part in the 2015 ShakeOut earthquake drill reminds us all of what we should do when an earthquake happens. PowerNet participated in the national event in mid-October.

PowerNet Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Manager Graeme Webby says the national event, organised by Civil Defence Emergency, is a chance for everyone in New Zealand to practise the right action to take during an earthquake – Drop, Cover and Hold.

"The exercise tests our readiness as an organisation for a real event. We should all know the right action to take before, during and after an earthquake both at work and at home – drop, cover, hold is the catch phrase to remember during an earthquake. It also reminds our people that an emergency can occur at any time so they should be prepared at home, by making up a household emergency plan and gathering a pack of basic survival items," Graeme says



Tony Corkill taking cover during the drill

## A Successful Day For PowerNet At The Corpor8 Event

The PowerNet rowing crew of Maree Hallgath, Phil Hartley, Jordan Coutts, Taura (Daggs) Patterson, Joe Clarke, Shirley Whitaker, Sean O'Connor, Jack Senior, John Bauer, Paul Barclay (Stroke), and coxswain Charlotte Whitaker secured a third place in the C Final in this year's 2015 Stabicraft Corpor8 Rowing Challenge, held at Oreti River in mid-November.

PowerNet GIS Technician Shirley Whitaker once again co-ordinated the PowerNet team made up of Racecourse Road and Onslow Street staff which gelled well and all rowed brilliantly.

"We had perfect conditions for rowing this year, a lovely calm river and absolutely no wind, unlike most of our trainings." Shirley says.

The PowerNet team finished in the B final of the indoor rowing event held in October. This determined the seeding for the crew in the outdoor event.

"During their four races we gained 3rd in heat one, 1st in the Repechage, 3rd in the semi-final and just pipped at the post by SBS Bank to get third in the C final. This placed us 11th overall," she says.

Over the eight week build up, the team's training took place on evenings and weekends with coach Dougal McDonald.

"We were lucky enough to have Dougal back coaching our team. He has been our coach for the past three years. We would like to thank Dougal for his time and patience in coaching us," Shirley says.



L/R Joe Clarke, Jack Senior, Maree Hallgath, Shirley Whitaker, Phil Hartley, John Bauer, Paul Barclay, Sean O'Connor, Taura (Daggs) and Coxswain Charlotte Whitaker

# ACROSS<sup>the</sup>LINES

## This Year's SIT Awards Go To...

The Southern Institute of Technology Awards ceremony was held at the Civic Theatre on Tuesday 1 December. PowerNet once again sponsored two categories.

Congratulations to Austyn Templeton for gaining the PowerNet Award for Top Student Electrical Pre – Trade Semester 2, and Zhang Hawley for gaining the PowerNet Award for Most Improved Student – Electrical.

Thanks to Keith Burns for presenting the awards to the lucky recipients.

## New Staff - Welcome to our new staff

### Racecourse Road Winton



**Stewart Cornhill**  
Distribution Project  
Manager



**Jackson Unahi**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic



**Brandon Hunt**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic

### Lumsden



**Mathew (Ralph)  
Turnbull**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic

### Te Anau



**Danielle (Dani)  
McConechy**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic

### Onslow Street



**Alan Kelbrick**  
Line Mechanic



**Rob Ivory**  
Protection  
Technician



**Joshua Arthur**  
Distribution Project  
Manager



**Samantha (Sam)  
Maurangi**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic



**Ione Pau**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic



**Gerard Anderson**  
Trainee Line  
Mechanic

## Welcome Back

Ben Williams 3rd year PowerNet Scholarship recipient  
Phillipa Buzzard Casual Office Assistant

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Lloyd Williamson on his appointment to Major Network Assets Manager

## Chair's Christmas Message



Ross Smith

On behalf of my fellow directors, I would like to wish PowerNet, Otago Power Services and Peak Power Services staff and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

It has been another productive and successful year for the company and networks we manage. This is a result of everyone's hard work and commitment to the company.

I thank you all for your efforts during 2015 ensuring our continued delivery of a safe, efficient and reliable electricity supply to our lower South Island customers.

Have an enjoyable Christmas break and I look forward to working with you again in 2016.

Ross Smith  
Chair