

December 2016

ACROSS *the* LINES

Christmas Message



Jason Franklin

Significant change has once again been the theme for 2016. Merging into one business was a key milestone for the year. The bringing together of Otago Power Services and PowerNet occurred in April, after an 18 month integration process. While there is more work yet to be done to complete our integration, we are in a significantly better place than at the start of the year, now operating as one team.

The organisation has been reshaped, including changes to the Senior Leadership Team. These changes were required to ensure we are organised in a way to best deliver our Shared Vision of **Safe, Efficient, Reliable, Power to Communities**. A significant amount of change has occurred this year with the bringing together of our operations into one Operational team, the establishment of a separate Health, Safety, Environment and Quality team and refining the areas that support the business with the new IT and Support team. We are now a lot better structured for the future needs of the business.

Teamwork at PowerNet is being demonstrated every day. A couple of highlights from 2016 remind us of this teamwork, being the Fiji deployment and our success at the 2016 Annual Connection Line Mechanic Competition. The way our staff come together to work as one team is fantastic.

The two groups that completed the leadership programme this year demonstrates our commitment to investing in our people. Over 60 leaders and potential leaders have now been through the programme which is making a big difference in how our teams are led.

There have also been some very sad times, with the loss of two work mates, Zion Smith and Mel Morrell. Seeing the impact of their passing on the team helps remind us that people are our greatest assets and when we lose team members, it is tragic.

We continue to implement workplace and public safety improvements, through improving our work practices and making changes to network assets. Our commitment to Safety Always is helping us ensure we never compromise with the safety of ourselves, our work mates and our communities. We need to continue to improve to ensure we all go home safe every day.

The introduction of the Lean management programme and specifically the 5S phases which are improving our work place and making it a much better place to work. The initial Lean work sets us up well for further changes in this area, all designed to improve our workplace efficiency. This business improvement focus also complements workplace safety as well ordered and structured work places and work practices result in safer work places.

Giving back to our communities is part of our Shared Vision. This is wide ranging, from the way we manage the network assets, how we engage with our customers in the community when we are going about our day to day work, and also through specific programmes such as our sponsorship of St John. This programme was recognised by the energy industry when PowerNet won the Community Initiative of the Year at the national Deloitte Energy Excellence Awards in August. Due to the success, we have agreed to extend the programme to cover all communities in which we operate, with St John now working to extend it to our Otago region.

Thank you all for your contribution this year. I hope you all have a safe and relaxing time over the Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.



Jason Franklin
Chief Executive

Safe | Efficient | Reliable
Power to Communities

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OtagoNet brand strengthened

The renaming of Electricity Southland Limited (ESL) to OtagoNet Limited in November has strengthened the OtagoNet brand.

With both companies sharing the same shareholding and governance group it made sense that they also shared a common name, says PowerNet chief executive, Jason Franklin.

"This is a move to achieve greater consistency and clarity and to consolidate the management and ownership of the two companies," Jason says.

ESL was formed in March 1996 and has grown significantly in recent years with assets now totalling around \$15 million.

"These two companies operate in quite separate geographical areas. As this is only a name change and these companies are asset owners rather than suppliers, customers are not affected by the change."



Well done Phil....

"World famous in New Zealand" is a phrase PowerNet chief executive, Jason Franklin used to describe PowerNet field safety and training advisor, Phil Johnson, after he won the Contribution to Industry Training award at the 2016 Connexis Annual Connection Excellence Awards.

The awards recognised significant contributions to the electricity industry and were announced at an industry function in Christchurch in October.

"This award is a major industry recognition for Phil and is well deserved. Phil has made a huge contribution to industry training for over 20 years. There are many qualified line mechanics throughout New Zealand who have benefited from Phil's training, especially in the area of live line work methods," Jason says.

The judging panel, when announcing the award, presented many examples of how Phil has made a real difference to the industry. The reaction of the crowd at the awards confirmed that Phil was a popular choice and is well-respected by his peers in the electricity industry.

"Phil is acknowledged nationally as a leader and as a source of wisdom; his depth of experience in the industry adds to his mana. His focus on training and safety reflects his awareness of the risks faced by our workers, particularly trainees.



Phil demonstrating pole top rescue to a PowerNet staff member.

Phil is an excellent role model for trainees and line mechanics alike," Jason says.

Phil's reaction to the award was typically modest. "For me this award is not only recognition of my endeavours, but also a reflection of the great people that I work with each day at PowerNet. It is certainly a proud moment in my career and one that I'll always cherish," he says.

Line mechanic competition hailed a success

The PowerNet Line mechanic competition team proved they are some of the finest line workers in the industry when they took away three awards at the 2016 Annual Connection Line Mechanic Competition.

The team, led by Shane Lawson, (Onslow St Depot), won two individual safety events titled 'Pole Top Rescue' and 'Drive' and placed second runner up in the overall 'Team of the Year' category at the competition held in Christchurch in October.

Shane and his three team mates, Taira Patterson (Onslow now Palmerston Depot), Matthew Brown (Winton Depot) and Sean Christensen (Winton) competed in a range of events over three days against 10 other line companies, including one team from Australia. The four men appreciated the opportunity to represent PowerNet and showcase their skills at the competition and enjoyed the camaraderie with the other teams.

This annual three-day event gives teams the opportunity to test their abilities while carrying out jobs safely and efficiently under the close scrutiny of experienced judges with the added pressure of the time clock. All events are completed as per a supplied job brief, criteria and specifications.

PowerNet's chief executive, Jason Franklin said the field was very competitive and was thrilled with the team's results.

"They performed extremely well. It is fantastic to see PowerNet right up there with the best in the industry," Jason said. He also gave special mention to team managers Sharon Johnston and Joseph Reti. "The entire group did themselves and PowerNet proud. Bring on the 2017 competition."

Sharon said that the team worked extremely well together throughout the competition and that they all enjoyed the support of Matthew's parents Sandy and John Brown from the North Island, who took the opportunity to combine a holiday with watching their son compete. Sandy said she was made to feel very welcome and enjoyed the intensity of the competition.

"There were some anxious breath holding moments which were not good for the heart but when the going got tough, the tough got going. What an incredibly talented team whom we are so proud of," Sandy says.



Above: The team working on the 'Hardware Build' category. This involved installing hardware and fittings on a softwood pole while being judged.

Left: The team working on the 'Dismantle' category. Shane and Matthew on endless line with Sean and Taira ascending ladders about to remove the transformer structure.

Waikiwi Substation upgrade completed



Left: Waikiwi Substation before the upgrade.

Middle: PowerNet Director, Alan Harper and PowerNet substation maintainer Lisa Terepai watching the installation of Transformer 1.

Right: The upgraded Waikiwi Substation.

The newly-upgraded Waikiwi Substation in Invercargill brings more power to the people in the Waikiwi, Lorneville and Otatara areas.

Work began in May 2015 to upgrade the substation. The 18-month project involved installing two new 33/11kV, 11.5/23MVA transformers and constructing a new architecturally designed transformer building.

PowerNet project manager, Roger Scott said the first stage was completed when the first transformer was livened in April 2016. The second transformer was then livened in September 2016.

"The new building which houses both transformers is fully enclosed to meet the requirements of the Invercargill City Council district plan by reducing ambient noise. It was also architecturally designed and landscaped to fit in with the surrounding environment," Roger says.

The pre-existing building continues to house the 33kV and 11kV switchgear and has been repainted to blend in with the new building.

Due to the compact nature of the site, design and construction was a challenge. The upgrade was completed in stages to maintain electricity supply and to minimise disruption for residents and businesses. This meant that one transformer was always working.

The commissioning of the second transformer was two months ahead of schedule, a testament to the hard work of all involved in the project.

Roger would like to thank the key contractors, Decom Electrical Limited, Donaldson Construction, Coles Consulting, Southern Quantity Surveyors and Beattie McDowell Architects Limited for delivering such a quality project ahead of time.

"We also need to thank the surrounding residents for their patience and understanding while we completed the upgrade."

KEY FACTS

- Project Manager - Roger Scott
- Project cost \$4.7 million
- Outcome - increased capacity and future proofed electricity supply to the Waikiwi, Lorneville and Otatara areas

Onslow Street depot clear winners of the indoor cricket challenge

Congratulations to the Onslow Depot team on their four run victory over the Racecourse Road team back in October.

Challenge organiser and PowerNet area supervisor, Murray Hamilton said the indoor cricket challenge was held at Queens Park Cricket Club.

"The Onslow depot team consisted of Paul Templeton, Phil Johnson, Joe Reti, Johnny Rabbit, Kevin O'Connor and myself, with Greg Buzzard, Aaron Sinclair, Justin Peterson, Michael Mackway-Jones, Steve Labes and Alan Beck representing the Racecourse Road team," Murray says.

"It was a great chance to socialise with another PowerNet office, we wish them all the best for our next challenge"

Pedal for Hope - Cancer Fundraiser



*Pedal for Hope participants: Lloyd Williamson, Dan Groen, Fraser Morrison, Sean Hepburn, Richard O'Hara, Nick Faddes, Lyndon Whale, Matt Barton, Janis Waters and Graeme Hills.
Absent: Rachael Watt, Debbie Taylor, Shane Cochrane and Dan Marshall.*

While the majority of PowerNet employees were making the most of a Saturday sleep-in on the last weekend of October, 14 staff were up early preparing to face 12 hours of lycra, sweat and fun-draising!

The PowerNet Balclutha team took part in Pedal for Hope, an indoor spin bike marathon organised to raise awareness and funds for the NZ Breast Cancer Foundation and NZ Prostate Cancer Foundation.

PowerNet Balclutha organiser, Janis Waters said that when local businesses and organisations were invited to participate in and sponsor the event, the PowerNet team were instantly keen to get involved.

"It was really great that we were able to put in a team and have PowerNet sponsor a bike, especially knowing the close connection our staff have with family and friends affected by cancer," Janis says.

She also noted it was particularly meaningful for the Balclutha team who sadly lost distribution administrator Melanie Morrell earlier that month to cancer.

As well as training for weeks ahead of the grilling 12-hour marathon, the team ran a cake stand and a breakfast barbeque and ended up raising the most money by any individual business with a grand total of \$1,189-60.

Brandon wins the biggest loser competition



Brandon Hunt

Congratulations to PowerNet's apprentice line mechanic, Brandon Hunt on his win of the Winton depot's biggest loser competition.

The competition ran for six weeks, beginning in October and finishing early November. Ten out of the 12 depot staff changed their eating habits and introduced regular exercise into their lifestyles.

PowerNet's Winton depot supervisor Craig O'Callaghan says Brandon shed a whopping 16.8kgs to take out first place and taking home a hefty cash prize.

"The average weight lost between the 10 participants was 7.5kgs. Second place went to Lance Harris with his loss of 11.1kgs and myself winning third place losing 11kgs," Craig says.

Brandon's determination to win the competition saw him walking for an hour and a half each night and over the six weeks he dramatically reduced his food intake.

"It was strange seeing everyone bringing salads for lunch, after completing the six weeks we all agreed not only did we lose weight we all feel much healthier and have increased our energy levels," he says.

Brandon has spent his prize money wisely, purchasing a much needed new washing machine. Well done Brandon your achievement was outstanding.

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It's busy in the OtagoNet Central region

Peak Power Services contractors working on behalf of OtagoNet are busy on subdivision developments and building projects in the Frankton area.

At the Shotover Country subdivision, cabling work for stages 11 (49 sections) and 12 (42 sections) is finished and work starts soon on the reticulation for stage 13 (47 sections). With the capacity for up to 900 houses, the subdivision will also include a childcare and shopping centre.

A new Wakatipu High School is scheduled to open in the Remarkables Park zone in 2018. Equipment installation work is already underway for this project, with the transformer being installed early next year.

The team will also be installing cabling and equipment for a new hotel and apartment block in the Remarkables Park zone, with construction starting in the next few months.

Cabling and equipment installation for the 42 section Lakes Edge subdivision is now finished. Cabling work continues at the 139 section Bridesdale Farm subdivision.

The team is also supplying cabling and installing equipment for Northlake, a major residential development in Wanaka. The initial work will be to service the 16 sections that comprise the first three stages of the project. A total of approximately 1650 lots are planned for the development, which also includes a village centre.

The Northlake development represents OtagoNet's first major project in the Wanaka area. The development will be connected as an embedded network taking 11kV supply from the Aurora Energy network.

"This region is a significant growth area for the work that PowerNet does across the south. We're really pleased to be involved in supplying a safe, efficient and reliable power supply for these major developments," says Peak Power Services general manager, Chris Way.



Shotover Country



Wakatipu High School



Bridesdale Farms

2016 TradeQual Event



Kana Shanmuganthan, Tony Snell and Michelle Henderson

The 2016 TradeQual Southland graduation dinner and presentation was held on 11 November at the Ascot Park Hotel in Invercargill.

The annual event acknowledges the regions valuable trades industry, newly qualified trades people, and 'on the job' training. This year 19 PowerNet graduates qualified with electrical trade certificates.

PowerNet chief operating officer Michelle Henderson was impressed with the high calibre of the event, which consisted of presentations by the region's mayors, a two-course meal and entertainment from guest speaker, former All Black Frank Bunce.

"The evening was enjoyed by all. Training is a key part of our 'Critical Success Factor of Passionate and Empowered People' focus, so well done to all our 2016 recipients and we look forward to celebrating more again next year," she says.

2016 Graduates: Tony Snell, Bradley Williams, Brendan Watson, Cole Birse, David Webster, David Watson, David Siaoosi, Jason Richardson, Joseph Richards, Joshua Arthur, Justin Petterson, Liam Mahon, Mark Payne, Mark Isaacs, Reece Stephenson, Richard Liddington, Ross Byron, Scott Fillbrook and Travis Bastiaansen.

PowerNet team complete another successful tour

The PowerNet cycling team achieved an impressive second place in the 60th SBS Bank Tour of Southland despite many new faces and competing with just five riders.

The absence of last year's PowerNet champion Brad Evans, along with several other former riders, made room for newbies Ryan Wills, Alex Heaney, Invercargill's Matt Zenovich and Sjoerd Kouwenhoven from The Netherlands to joined the team under the leadership of three time PowerNet team leader and multiple stage winner Roman Van Uden.

Auckland Alexander Ray was set to ride with the team but fell ill on the eve of the 4.2 km Prologue time trial event leaving the six-man team one short for the duration of the tour. The remaining five PowerNet riders stepped up however, and gained fifth place in the time trial around Queens Park, just eight seconds behind the winning team.

Seven days of testing and exciting road racing followed and throughout all stages at least one PowerNet rider was in the break. This consistent effort was rewarded with a second-place finish in the Team Classification behind winners Kia Motors - Ascot Park Hotel.

PowerNet's Dutch rider Sjoerd Kouwenhoven finished third in the General Classification behind overall winner and New Zealand track cycling star Aaron Gate of Auckland who was riding for Creation Signs - L and M Group Ricoh, and Michael Vink of Christchurch who was riding for Mike Greer Homes.

Local PowerNet rider Matt Zenovich also had a successful tour, finishing second in stage 1, first Southlander up Coronet Peak, first Southlander up Bluff Hill and the highest placing Southlander overall.

Team manager Aaron Sinclair was pleased with both the team and individual results and said it would not have been possible without the help of the support team and helpers including Jim and Jan Phair, Alaister and Linda Marshall, Steve Labes, Tony Corkill, Waric Cross, Dmitrii Shliaga, Maree Hallgath, Trish Hazlett, Kathryn McCoy, Allan Beck and Greg Buzzard.



The 2016 PowerNet Team.



Balclutha's Santa Parade was held on Saturday 3 December. PowerNet entered the 'Hansel and Gretel' float with staff members Rudie Burgers, Graeme Hills, Rachael Watt, Janis Waters, Dan Marshall, Nick Faddes, Rob Dickie and their families all happy to be part of the local event.



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Pre-climb procedure for field team completed

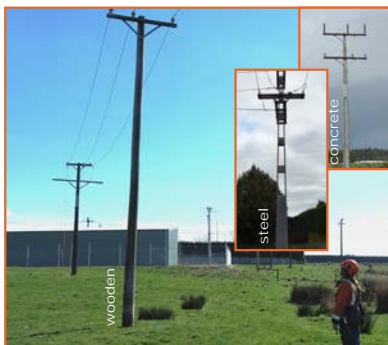
OUR COMMITMENT TO WORKING SAFELY



To keep ourselves, our workmates and the public safe we will always complete...



Pre-climb pole and structure assessment



Visual Inspection

RISK	HIGH
HIGH HARM ALMOST CERTAIN IF TASK NOT COMPLETED	

FOPR-295

Over the past three months the Health, Safety Environment and Quality (HSEQ) team have been working with various teams across PowerNet to develop a consistent approach for the critical risks within the business.

PowerNet's general manager HSEQ, Justin Peterson, said PowerNet's identified critical risks include anything that could seriously harm or kill people at work.

"The risks are tied up with our 12 safety commitments where the goal is simple, if we get these right then our people will go home safe each day," he says.

The first critical risk to be addressed was pre climb inspections, with an aim to ensure that PowerNet teams are always safe before they climb any poles across the network.

Training advisor (East) Joseph Reti and communications co-ordinator Kathryn McCoy worked together to develop highly visual instructions so employees could visually step through the pre climb check process.

Joseph and training advisor (West) Chris Walker are also working through specific training targeted at pre-climb inspections of poles which will ensure teams can physically demonstrate any dangers that may be present. Other key messages are that bucket trucks should always be the first option considered before climbing, and that if you are not confident the pole is sound - don't climb it, instead, find an alternative method to access the pole.

"We believe the use of the visual aids together with specific training will provide our teams with the tools and confidence to perform thorough and consistent checks on all poles prior to climbing," Justin says.

The HSEQ team is now working on addressing the rest of the critical risks with a similar approach in mind. From this work, a complete booklet will eventually be compiled outlining instructions on all of PowerNet's safety commitments as well as details on employee competencies and leadership guides.

A new streamlined ordering system for Personal Protective Equipment



Justin Peterson

Changes to the way PowerNet's workplace Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and overalls are administrated were made in November, creating a more streamlined ordering system and allowing for a higher standard of health and safety.

The project was overseen by former PowerNet's Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) Officer Amanda Milne and involved HSEQ team members training depot administrators, as well as development of new equipment lists and standards.

PowerNet's general manager HSEQ, Justin Peterson said that under the new process, if someone needs new or replacement safety equipment or overalls they are to complete an order form which is then signed off by their line leader and processed by their depot administrator.

"Although PPE and overalls are no doubt a critical safety backstop, the ordering and admin no longer needs to be managed exclusively by the HSEQ team as it previously was. This new process allows our teams to take ownership and manage their needs more closely themselves, in turn improving their own safety standards and those across the board."

Going forward, the role of the HSEQ team in relation to PPE will be to set standards, investigate new equipment, deal with defects and assist the Health and Safety committees if any issues arise.

"The changes will benefit all of PowerNet as it means the HSEQ Officer can manage our safety systems more efficiently and allows more time for the analysis of safety reports and to focus on keeping all teams safe."

Justin also mentioned a special thanks to the depot administrators for taking the process and making it work so well, particularly given the tight time frames for training.

Team row well in corporate challenge

PowerNet was once again represented at the Stabcraft Corpor8 Rowing Challenge on Saturday 19 November.

With a largely novice crew this year the team placed near the back of the field, finishing third in the 'D' final. But despite the result, PowerNet GIS technician and team organiser Shirley Whitaker said the event was a big success as a fun, fit, team building activity.

"It was great to see five new team members having a go this year, it provided the unique opportunity for field and office staff to work together. Rowing is the ultimate team sport, there is a lot to learn in a short time but when it all comes together, they feel really good," she says.

The crew included rowers Aaron Sinclair, Ged Anderson, Janine Sinclair, John Bauer, Kevin O'Connor, Paul Templeton, Samantha Maurangi and Sean O'Connor and cox, Shirley Whitaker.

In the six weeks building up to race day crews practice with an indoor rowing time trial and up to eight on-water trainings. Sixteen teams from Southland organisations and businesses competed in the 2016 main event, which was won by Whyte Gravel Supplies and Environment Southland took out the Quads Derby.

"The competition was tough this year. Timing is everything in rowing, so commitment to the trainings is crucial, which can be a struggle when balancing work and family. But we did improve vastly over the weeks and everyone really enjoyed race day, both on and off the water," Shirley says.

On behalf of the crew Shirley wishes to thank everyone who supported the team on the day and especially Dougal McDonald who coached the PowerNet crew for the fourth year running.



Front row: Shirley Whitaker, John Bauer, Paul Templeton, Janine Sinclair and Samantha Maurangi
Back row: Sean O'Connor, Kevin O'Connor, Aaron Sinclair and Ged Anderson

New fuel supplier for PowerNet

A recent review of PowerNet's transport costs has resulted in a partnership with new preferred fuel supplier Allied Petroleum.

As chief information officer, Tim Brown explained, the expansion of PowerNet during the year provided the ideal opportunity to look at where the company can gain efficiencies, including vehicle and related expenses.

"The company now has more than 280 staff and over 160 vehicles based from Ranfurly to the deep South. Our fleet travelled more than 2.9 million kilometers last year, so part of the review was to go to market for proposal on fuel suppliers," he says.

Tim noted it has been recognised that staff may occasionally need to refuel elsewhere due to their location or working hours and that in these special circumstances alternative arrangements would be made.

Upgrade internet sees data lines running faster than ever before

An upgrade to PowerNet's internet services in November has data lines running faster than ever before. The first upgrade saw the connection to the Onslow Depot increase from 10MB to 50MB. Then a major upgrade from 3MB to 50MB at the Balclutha office was implemented which has greatly improved the performance of running applications that connect to the Racecourse Road office as well as allowing for Balclutha to run data backups.

PowerNet's fixed line and mobile services are also set to change. A company-wide transition from our current communication services to new provider Vodafone will be actioned over the coming months and completed by 1 April 2017.



What the staff are saying about the internet upgrade...

"Thank you, the improvement is noticeable and much appreciated." *Operations (Distribution) Administration Team Leader East, Kristie Bell*

"Wow! The speed is fantastic." *Administration Assistant, Janis Waters*

"This is going to make my job so much quicker and more productive." *Draughting Officer, Ian Elder*

Michelle visits Stewart Island

PowerNet's Michelle Henderson made her first visit to the company's Stewart Island site as chief operating officer in November, after taking on the new position in October.

Accompanied by technical manager Trevor Simmonds, the pair spent a day on the island working with station operators Chris Dillon and Steve Lawrence. In order to gain a greater understanding of the daily operations on the island, Michelle and Trevor were treated to 'a day in the life of' Chris and Steve, who both work full time on maintenance and engineering services, including installation, maintenance and servicing the generators, lines and cables, as well as fault management.

In the months prior to the visit both Chris and Trevor spent some time working on the mainland networks and in return, had members of the technical team work with them on the island. Michelle explained that the exercise was beneficial for everyone involved and provided valuable opportunities for crews to learn from each other.

"We have more upcoming plans to package up the Stewart Island line maintenance work and have staff head over to assist Chris and Steve and to help with the planning of this, it is extremely beneficial for me to see first-hand where and how the guys operate," Michelle says.

Michelle noted one fun fact she learned during the field trip was that the station operators use a motorbike to read meters on the island once a month.

"Expert risk assessment is required when using this mode of transport around the island's narrow roads and steep driveways!"

While they were there Michelle and Trevor also briefed Chris and Steve on their part in the upcoming pre-climb inspections training and provided a review of the importance of routine daily checks on machines.

Another trip is planned for late January when Michelle looks forward to observing work on power station machines and the distribution infrastructure around the island.



Steve Lawrence and Michelle Henderson

Warren Dobson represents New Zealand in curling championships



Anton Hood, Warren Dobson, Scott Becker, Sean Becker and Peter De Boer

PowerNet depot supervisor and resident curling star Warren Dobson of Ranfurly spent a week away competing at the Pacific Asia Curling Championships in Uiseong, South Korea in November.

As an experienced member of the New Zealand men's curling team, Warren was playing the vital role of lead at the tournament, where New Zealand competed against a large field including Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong and Qatar.

The New Zealand team narrowly missed out on a playoff spot, with four wins and four losses placing them right in the middle of the field. Warren said they had been hoping for a top three finish to qualify for an Olympic play down spot but unfortunately, they couldn't quite nudge out the professionals in the form of Japan, China and Korea.

"It was however, fun competing against some old foes and also new, plus we managed to get one over our cousins next door Australia so that is always a bonus. The food and culture was great too, although seeing a few locals working over there I don't think they have heard of Health and Safety!" he says.

Warren has been a member of the New Zealand men's curling team since 2003 with his career highlights including winning the Pacific Curling Championships in 2003 and 2004 and placing 10th in the 2006 Winter Olympics. Warren wishes to thank PowerNet for allowing him the time off to compete and says he is now looking forward to a well-deserved break during the off season.

"Unless some of you Southlanders want to come up and challenge us that is!"

Movember well supported

Once again 'Movember' provided the opportunity for PowerNet staff to embrace some face lace and raise awareness for men's health to help stop men dying too young.

This year PowerNet's unofficial crumb catcher competition organiser David Steele from the Ranfurly depot threw out a tongue-in-cheek lip toupée challenge to the company. The Palmerston, Lumsden and Balclutha teams jumped on board and many staff from the other depots also accepted the snot mop challenge.

"We decided to try and get all of PowerNet into it. It's a bit of fun of course, but it's also about encouraging people to talk about mental health and making sure you, your family, friends and workmates are ok," David says.

The Movember Foundation goal is to stop men dying too young, incorporating awareness for prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health. David said the funds raised this year were donated to Lifeline Aotearoa as the cause is close to many following the unexpected deaths of Palmerston linesman Zion Smith in September and Supervisor Dean Bressell of Ranfurly in 2013. As well as Movember, Zion Smith was remembered when a memorial rugby match was played between Palmerston and Waikouaiti in October.

Well done to all those who participated - pictured below: John Bauer, Jan Van Staden, Ron Faulkner, Alex Herring, Cory Sutton, Dan Marshall, Matt Barton, Rob Dickie, Shane Cochrane, Mary Way, Tara Unahi, Kristie Belle, Debbie Taylor, Janis Waters, Helen Widdicombe, Phil Ramage, Nick Faddes, Graeme Hills, Lindon Whale, Barry Anderson, Deahan Maloney, Maurice Graham, Joe Richards, Marlon McLean, Shannon Lynch, Joel Lee, Alan Kelbrick, Craig McBurney, Gene Brookland, Gerard Anderson, Murray Hamilton, Mark Isaacs, Shane Lawson, Michael Blair, Adam Kirkman, Deon Bridger and Chris Carey.



ACROSS*the*LINES

Crisis management team put to the test

A simulated response to a major earthquake based in Fiordland was played out on 1 December at the PowerNet Onslow depot as part of the company's new business continuity programme. The PowerNet crisis management team was involved in the desktop exercise, in which a 7.3 earthquake had hypothetically damaged the Racecourse Road building, resulting in the need for an alternate location for system control.

PowerNet compliance and risk advisor, Tania Cribb said the main purpose of the exercise was to give the newly established crisis management team an introduction to their roles.

"The exercise helped each member establish how they would fit within the process of responding to a crisis. It also allowed for the testing of documentation that had been prepared for such circumstances," she says.

The crisis management team is designed to be the brains trust of managing a crisis. It comprises all seven senior leaders as well as staff from critical areas, such as communications, infrastructure, legal and insurance and holds the ability to call in subject matter experts if needed.

The earthquake drill was the first of several training exercises for the team under the new business continuity programme, which is being run with the assistance of leading crisis management company Kestrel Group.

Tania said the first exercise was extremely positive, with everyone taking away a number of learnings that will benefit the future preparedness of the company.

"The participants found it very realistic and rewarding. Although it was a paper based exercise this time around, it was challenging as further information was added periodically to challenge various thinking and options."

Further exercises are expected to be held approximately every six months, ranging from paper based to full scale training exercises.

"A well-practiced and supported crisis management team is better placed to respond and support the organisation in the case of a real crisis. It is both timely and extremely important that we keep ahead of the game with planning and preparedness as an organisation, and we hope this thinking extends to all staff and their families too."



The crisis management team

Christmas lights shine brightly in Invercargill's Central Business District



Above: Onslow Depot erecting Invercargill's Christmas lights in early December.

Below: The Christmas lights in action.



Festive season hits Racecourse Road office

The official visit from Santa has been made and he has announced the category winners of the "Deck the Halls" Christmas Competition....

Overall 'Christmas Nutters' Award

-Finance Team

Spot prize 'Out of the Christmas Box' Award

-Commercial team

Spot prize 'Santa's little helpers' Award

-IT and System Control



ACROSS*the*LINES

Welcome to our new staff



Tracey Hutchison
Company secretary
Racecourse Road



Mase Salesa
Distribution line
mechanic, Gore Depot



Greg Salmon
Project manager
Balclutha



Mike Cunningham
Distribution line mechanic
Gore Depot



Craig McBurney
Distribution line mechanic
Onslow Depot

Welcome to our temporary staff:

Darrin Hillas and Ben MacKenzie both Engineering students studying at Canterbury University, they will be spending the Christmas period working at PowerNet. Also welcome to Laura Corkill who is assisting the Health, Safety, Environment and Quality team for a few weeks.

Farewell to:

Amanda Milne, Daniel Olham and Nathan Blanc

Obituary:

Mel Morrell (Balclutha) and Zion Smith (Palmerston) who will both be sadly missed by us all at PowerNet.

Baby congratulations go to:

Shane and Kylie Lawson on the birth of Kara Ann, born on 26 August weighing 6lb 10oz and Michael and Janine Mackway-Jones on the birth of Eva Jane, born on 20 October weighing 9lb 2oz. Simon Faddes and partner Rebecca on the birth of their daughter Mckyah.

Congratulations to our newest leadership programme graduates:

Chris Way, Lyndon Whale, Lance Harris, Hector Diamond, Marlon McLean, Warren Dobson, Murray Dickie, Blair Bernard, Phil Hartley, Jacques Vergottini, Reece Stephenson and Jim Matheson.

Congratulations on your new roles:

Debbie Taylor (Balclutha) on her promotion to depot administration (East), Gary Davis to fleet/plant facilities officer and Taura Patterson on his transfer to the Palmerston depot. Chris Way (Frankton) on his appointment to general manager Peak Power Services Limited.

Sporting achievements:

Mike Dela Cruz (Racecourse Road) for completing the Queenstown full marathon, Alan Beck (Racecourse Road) and Sarah Brown (Director) for completing the Queenstown half marathon. Mark Isaacs (Onslow Depot) for completing the Luxmore Grunt, Aaron Sinclair and Justin Peterson (Racecourse Road) for completing the Bannockburn Gutbuster MTB Event. Finally, Jim Hargest (Trustee) who qualified for the UCI 2016 Gran Fondo World Championships (road cycling race) held in Perth in September. Congratulations to you all!



Ross Smith - Chair

Message from our Chair

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

It has been a busy and successful year for PowerNet and the networks we manage, this is down to your hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all your efforts throughout the year in making sure we continue to deliver a safe, efficient and reliable electricity supply to our network customers.

Once again have an enjoyable break and get ready for another successful year in 2017.

