

December 2019

ACROSS *the* LINES

Growth, consolidation and recognition for 2019

2019 has been another very busy year. We have seen significant consolidation and future-proofing across our networks as well as continued growth and ongoing improvements throughout the business.

Our workplaces and communities are safer places because our leaders and teams are focused and dedicated to working safe and returning home each day unharmed. Our ongoing commitment to staff wellbeing saw the introduction and embedding of the 'Feeling Great' programme and more recently, the introduction of the Psychological First Aid (PFA) programme encouraging PowerNet staff to feel more comfortable about reaching out for support if and when it is required.

We have completed some significant multi-year projects this year, across our networks.

In Invercargill, the three-year, \$9.2 million project to significantly improve workplace and public safety in the central business district is largely complete. Thirteen underground substations and 130 link boxes have been moved above ground, creating a much safer environment for both the public and our team members.

In Southland, the recently completed Oreti Valley Project (OVP) has extended the 66kV network to include Centre Bush, Dipton, Lumsden and Mossburn substations. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate PowerNet project manager, Roger Scott and everyone involved on this major infrastructure project for all their hard work throughout the five stages since 2015. The OVP will help ensure network supply has improved reliability and capacity to future proof the area for potential growth and also increase generation capability into the network – a great result for the region.

In Otago, through targeted investment we're further improving network reliability on the OtagoNet network. One major investment, the installation of a 7.5km underground electricity cable from Clifton to Clydevale will significantly improve network reliability for the Clydevale area. A mole plough was used to install the cable in January 2019.

In Queenstown & Central Otago, we continue to invest in this high-growth region – with PowerNet Central (formerly Peak Power Services Ltd) installing new distribution infrastructure for new residential subdivisions and commercial developments in and around Frankton, and in the Wanaka region.

The year brought more awards and recognition for our hardworking PowerNet teams.

We won the EEA Workplace Safety Award for our innovative Pole Grab invention. The Pole Grab was the brainchild of Training & Assessment Team Leader Joe Reti, who identified a safety risk to field staff when accessing failing poles. This innovative solution is a lighter-weight pole grab that allows greater safety, manoeuvrability and flexibility when removing and replacing poles. Look out for the introduction of the pole grab into the business in 2020.

The Invercargill CBD underground substations and link boxes relocation project entry 'Moving on Up' was a finalist in the 2019 Deloitte Energy Awards in the Network Initiative of the Year category. We are proud of our technical team who made this all happen. They showed commitment to the project which included working at night and weekends to ensure the businesses in the CBD were not affected during this 3-year-project.

We were also delighted to be a finalist in the 2019 Westpac Southland Business Excellence Awards - for the Construction, Trades, Manufacturing & Distribution Sector category.



Jason Franklin

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Growth, consolidation and recognition for 2019 cont...

Cable jointer Paul Barclay made us all very proud with his awesome result at the 2019 Connexis Annual Connection Competition in Hastings. Paul was named the 2019 NZ Cable Jointer of the Year, as well as picking up many other category awards. A fantastic effort.

Changes at board level during the year included the resignation of two directors – Locky McGregor and Karen Arnold. We thank both Locky and Karen for their contributions.

We welcomed the appointments of two new directors to the PowerNet board, Peter Moynihan and Paul Kiesanowski.

There have been significant changes to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) over 2019. We fare-welled a key member of the leadership team during 2019. Chief Operating Officer Michelle Henderson left in October to take up an appointment as a Director of Meridian Energy Limited, which is a great achievement. Michelle joined us in October 2016 and has made a fantastic contribution to our business. Her strong leadership, commitment to workplace safety and considered approach will leave a strong legacy, especially in the Operations Team.

During the year, Michelle won Safeguard Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum - Leader of the Year Award at the New Zealand Workplace Health and Safety Awards for the innovative 'Coaching by Kilometre' programme. A great achievement.

Justin Peterson has been appointed as our new Chief Operating Officer. Justin has a great understanding for the business having held several key roles at PowerNet, including General Manager – HSE and more recently General Manager – Business Growth.

We also welcomed our new GM Asset Management, Anton Booyzen, who started in March, GM Health, Safety & Environment, Rangi Solomon, who started in May, and GM People, Culture and Communications David Stevens, who started in September.

I'm extremely proud of our people and would like to thank you all for your contributions to PowerNet's many achievements in 2019. Your fantastic team work, professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment are at the heart of our ability to deliver on our shared vision; Safe, Efficient and Reliable Power to our Communities.

Have a happy, safe and relaxed Christmas holiday season and best wishes for 2020.

Bigger, Better power supply for customers in Western, Central and Northern Southland

Large parts of western, central and northern Southland are well-positioned for increases in energy use and electrification after the completion of the five year, \$27.3 million Oreti Valley Project (OVP) in September.

The OVP has upgraded and expanded The Power Company's (TPCL) 66kV network to include Centre Bush, Dipton, Lumsden and Mossburn substations.

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says the OVP will help ensure network supply reliability, future proof the area for potential growth and also increase generation capability into the network – a great result for the region!

"I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate PowerNet project manager, Roger Scott, and everyone involved on this major infrastructural project for all their hard work throughout the five stages since 2015."



The upgraded Centre Bush substation.



PowerNet staff and contractors installing the 66kV conductors across the Oreti River.

Seventy-six kilometres of 66kV lines have been installed or upgraded and four substations (Centre Bush, Dipton, Lumsden and Mossburn) rebuilt or upgraded. A new microwave network has also been installed to provide fast protection operations between substations.

"This major project brings significant long-term benefits to local communities. It means an increase of four times network capacity, reliability and supply for potential growth opportunities," says TPLC chair, Doug Fraser.

"We've appreciated the fantastic support we've had from the western, northern and central Southland communities including their patience during planned outages, and when we've needed to access private land for installation work," he says.

During construction, there were technical challenges to overcome, including installing four 38m steel towers either side of the flood prone Oreti River so that conductors could span the river's 543m width.

The Power Company's mobile substation provided additional capacity while substation upgrades were underway and in November 2017 when higher temperatures meant electricity use was greater than usual.

The new 66kV line and upgraded substations have now been fully commissioned.

"Completing this project means TPCL is well-positioned for increases in energy use and electrification," Mr Fraser says.



One of the four 38m steel towers being delivered to the Oreti River site to be installed.

Justin Peterson steps up to take on Chief Operating Officer role



Justin Peterson

New to the role – but certainly not new to the business.

That's an apt description for new PowerNet chief operating officer Justin Peterson who took over the key position from Michelle Henderson in October.

"Having worked closely over the past three years with Michelle, it is a real privilege to lead the operations team," Justin says.

"I'm very pleased. It's not something I expected to be fair. It's never something I planned for. It's very similar to the role I had at OPS, with a few additional functions added into it, like system control."

Justin has held several roles within PowerNet, including distribution/technical project manager, Integration manager Otago Power Services (OPS), GM HSE and more recently GM Business Growth.

"I look forward to the future as we work together to define our strategic planning for the next five years.

The role offers a lot of good challenges, with resourcing and building the capability of the operations team," he said.

"For the people in the business that have drive, there's opportunities there for them. I think the biggest thing is never turn down opportunities when they arrive."

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin said Justin's considerable operational and wider business experience has equipped him well for the chief operating officer role.

"I am confident he will continue the great work that Michelle has delivered with her team. Justin and Michelle have worked closely over the past three years and between them have delivered considerable improvements for HSE and operations."

Justin re-joined the PowerNet group in 2012 after returning to Southland from Australia. He has held operational roles with Continuity Contracting, Power Services locally and with Ergon Energy in Queensland.

"I see myself as serving the people who work in the operations area, to ensure they get home safely every day," Justin said.

New System Control manager brings vast experience to role



PowerNet system control manager Peter Sinclair.

With vast industry experience on both sides of the Tasman – Peter Sinclair has joined PowerNet as our new system control manager.

Peter started in his new role at the end of September and leads the control room to provide safe and soonest restoration, and maintaining power supply to customers.

Peter joins PowerNet from Comiskey Mining Services in Queensland Australia where he was the superintendent maintenance & safety compliance. Prior to that he was Queensland and Papua New Guinea manager for Zenith Pacific which own powerstations on mine sites in that region.

He grew up in the Waitaki Valley, where his father worked as mechanical overseer for the Ministry of Works and Development.

He has worked in most areas of the electricity industry initially starting on the Twizel power scheme, then with New Zealand Electricity Department, and spent many years working for Meridian Energy on the Manapouri hydro scheme as operations manager.

Peter's other roles in Australia have been as maintenance manager for Southern Hydro in Victoria, Power Station manager for the three largest power stations in the Northern Territory for Territory Generation, and in recent years, Peter has held senior maintenance management positions in the mining environment in Australia and New Zealand.

Peter brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to PowerNet and we're excited to have him on board," chief operating officer Justin Peterson said.

"He has a very strong health, safety and process background that is strongly aligned with PowerNet's vision and values."

Peter's interests include clay-target shooting, travel, community activities, rugby and rugby league, hunting and fishing.

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Paul Barclay cleans up at Connexis Annual Connection Competition

A haul of awards for an experienced team member and valuable experience for new competitors were the highlights of the 2019 Connexis Annual Connection Competition in Hastings.

Invercargill's Paul Barclay (pictured right) was the individual star of the team, winning the 2019 Cable Jointer of the Year, as well as picking up the awards for HV joint, HV outdoor termination, pit rescue and spiking gun (second year in a row).

PowerNet chief operating officer Justin Peterson says this was a fantastic achievement by Paul, to be recognised as the best cable jointer in New Zealand at the event held from 24 – 26 September.



Paul was joined by his Queenstown-based colleague Ronnan do Nascimento (pictured below), while the line mechanic team comprised: (pictured left) Mase Salese (Invercargill depot and team leader), Lyndon Whale (Balclutha depot and team manager), Daniel Marshall (Balclutha), Metua Marama (Invercargill trainee) and Matthew Barton (Balclutha).

"I was really proud of the way they conducted themselves. They made sure everything was done safely. And the best thing was that they got on so well," Justin said.

The team work shown was fantastic, with many of the team competing for the first time, he said.

"There wasn't a lot between the teams, the competition was very tight.

"This experience will serve them well for future competitions. It takes a lot of organisation to put a team together to send to an event like this. I would like to thank everyone that was involved," Justin said.



Work has begun on the Balclutha and Lumsden depot rebuilds

Physical work is well underway on PowerNet's new Balclutha workshop, administration building and warehouse/retail space at the Charlotte Street site.

GM business support and improvement Rachael Watt says the development is designed to create a new, pleasant work environment, improved health and safety, better flow and a greater visible public presence.

The workshop will be multi-use for distribution, arborist and technical staff while the administration building will be a combination of open plan spaces and offices for both office and field staff.

The warehouse/retail space is to be leased to PowerNet's stores management and supply partner Corys Electrical.

Office floor pours and the first parts of workshop floor pours were completed in November, Rachael said.

The frames for the office building are currently underway and should be complete by Christmas.

Site work excavation for the northern driveway and parking area has been started between the new building and the Hansen and King boundary.



Balclutha rebuild - L/R: demolition of the old building, foundations laid, framework now underway for the office building.

Rachael said the new Lumsden Depot build was also progressing well.

The steel portal framing and roof structure was completed in November with wall and roof cladding currently underway.

The depot build is expected to be complete by Christmas, while the demolition of the old building, construction of fleet wash and transformer bund and site works are scheduled to be complete by 31 March 2020.



Lumsden Depot rebuild scheduled for completion by Christmas.

PowerNet Health and Safety Committee evolving with the times



PowerNet health and safety committee chairperson, Lynley Hall.

The PowerNet health and safety committee has grown, evolved and become more effective during the past 12 months, GM health, Safety and Environment Rangī Solomon says.

As part of the company's continuous improvement efforts, there has been a noticeable increase in the efficiency and effectiveness of how the committee operates, he said.

"This can largely be attributed to the engagement and dedication of each committee member and our chairperson Lynley Hall who always brings a positive can do attitude to the meetings."

The committee has reached several milestones, including the development of the committee mission statement, clearly defining the committee's purpose and responsibilities.

This in turn has led to greater attendance at meetings – with the ability to Skype into meetings.

Safety representatives attend by invitation and as a replacement for any committee members that are unable to attend.

Clear agendas and efficiently run meetings have helped achieve buy-in from safety representatives at each depot, office and facility.

Senior Leadership team attendance and support at every meeting has also been beneficial to the overall role of the committee.

"We would like to thank our PowerNet health and safety committee for the outstanding contribution they have made to ensure we all go home to our whānau at the end of our working day/shift/roster," Rangī said.

Lynley said keeping meetings as short as possible, having a better defined scope of issues, better attendance, and safety representative training have helped make the committee more effective.

Three quarters of Kiwis thinking about switching to electric vehicles



The Electric Vehicle Company director Alex de Boer.

Many people are thinking about buying an electric vehicle (EV) and there's plenty of good advice available for those considering a change, The Electric Motor Vehicle Company director Alex de Boer says.

PowerNet is working alongside companies such as Alex's to assist businesses and individuals with information around the options and many benefits that EVs offer.

Alex has been building up The Electric Motor Vehicle Company, situated on the corner of Fox and Dee St in Invercargill for the past two years.

They are developing a full range of EVs from fold-up scooters, to farm bikes and four-wheel utility vehicles to family cars and commercial vans, he said.

"Sales are picking up, but I would love Invercargill to set the trend for the rest of New Zealand."

Alex said he sees his company more like a mobility advice service than a vehicle dealership.

"We like to talk to clients and ask them 'what do you want the vehicle for, what are you going to do with it?' There's an EV or a plug-in hybrid for any use you want."

Plug-in hybrids are hybrid electric vehicles which its battery can be recharged by plugging it into an external electric power source. Electric range for these kinds of vehicles can go up to 60km. Beyond that, it will work as a normal petrol or diesel vehicle.

He cites a recent survey in which 74% of people said they were thinking about getting an EV, but the key was to encourage and educate them so they felt confident about going electric, he said.

The TradeMe survey found that Kiwis are onboard the electric vehicle revolution with 74% saying they would consider buying one for their next vehicle.

Three quarters of Kiwis thinking about switching to electric vehicle cont...

The Electric Motor Vehicle Company price range for EVs tracks from about \$15,000 up to about \$45,000.

The most common questions he fields are about the range EVs can cover and battery life.

The range of EVs is increasing all the time, and while they are primarily used for shorter trips around urban areas at the moment, vehicle range is expected to reach 500-600km in the near future. More and more EV fast-charging stations are being installed on popular driving routes.

“On a long trip just be prepared to stop for a cup of coffee while you give your EV a top-up.”

Charging up your EV will soon be similar time-wise to filling up at the petrol station, but a lot cheaper, with charging costs equivalent to paying about 30 cents per litre for petrol, Alex says.

Battery life is generally up to 20 years for an EV used every day – the lifespan dependent on factors such as the number of charges and kilometres covered, rather than a specific time period, he said.

Because electric motors have about 20 moving parts as compared to approximately 2,000 moving parts in a equivalent combustion engine, maintenance costs are lower.

On top of that, when you consider that running costs are about 25% of a petrol vehicle, it’s understandable why more and more people are going electric.

Alex says moving to a plug-in hybrid can be a good first step for people wanting to transition from petrol to EV.

Government incentives are also being brought in encouraging people to consider the move to electric, he said.

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Business Continuity Exercise goes well

Keeping calm and working methodically through a crisis situation were two of the keys to a successful business continuity exercise held on 16 September.

The scenario was named 'Exercise Rata' and was run by Kestrel Group with the PowerNet crisis management team involved.

The exercise was based on a truck ploughing through a Balclutha construction site resulting in a contractor fatality and several injuries, plus loss of electricity to about 1,500 customers.

PowerNet chief operating officer Justin Peterson said the team worked well together, dealing with the situation and operational leaders working as a cohesive unit.

Keeping calm – and not rushing are the biggest things to remember. "Once we figured out an approach, the team really took the bull by its horns," Justin said.

One of the key learnings from the exercise was the need to activate a crisis management team onsite sooner.

During the exercise, operational staff took themselves away from the main group, figured out a plan, and implemented it, he said.

"Senior leadership roles in those sorts of situations are sort of like being the conductors, of where everything needs to go," Justin said.

Exercises such as this are vitally important for PowerNet which has 170,000 power poles and a large number of substations across its network regions. A simulated crisis situation helps staff gain valuable experience in the event of a real-life crisis – with the aim of avoiding mistakes and delays.

"Running these events helps us improve every time. We're starting to refine the process, but in saying that, it's never easy. The event simulations presented to us are always new, therefore you don't know what you're getting into, which is a great thing."

The exercise was an excellent reflection of PowerNet's critical success factors in operation - safety always, customer focus, continuous improvement, passionate empowered people and courageous leadership.

"I'm quite firm on following an organisational vision. If we can get everyone singing from the same song sheet, then you can really get some traction," Justin said.



The crisis management team working through 'Exercise Rata'.

Six week challenge brings out the best

A fun-filled six weeks of wearable arts, active challenges and rugby rivalries saw the Dropouts captained by Shane Lawson with team members Jack Senior, Sam Maurangi, Nic Boyle and Stuart Mitchell come out on top.

Wellbeing Champions Faye McLeod and Tara Unahi, put together the Six Week Challenge, which attracted 16 teams from throughout PowerNet's networks in October and early November.

Weekly and spot prizes were awarded for each challenge and the overall winning team received a Wairaurahiri jet boat ride and BBQ as first prize.

The Six Week Challenge was a chance for teams to get creative and have a lot of fun through activities such as being active, playing a game together, connecting with another team, rock art, brain teasers and a wearable arts challenge, while supporting a Rugby World Cup team Faye said.

"The teams went totally all out. They were incredibly loyal to the rugby teams they were drawn."

It was great to see teams working together and interacting with one another, she said.

"Each team had a week to complete each challenge and then everyone sent in their photos for judging. Teams who wouldn't normally reach out to each other got together as part of the challenge."

We saw some creative thinking along the way; one of the teams doing the rock art challenge said they used invisible ink, so that won them a spot prize, Faye said.

"A lot of fun and laughter went on, which was great."

"It was great to get the lines crews involved as well as the office staff."

The end of the challenge celebration involved an afternoon tea shout for the participating teams, with those outside of Invercargill Skyping in for the prize-giving.

The Health and Wellbeing team will seek feedback from staff at the end of the year as they look to refresh the wellbeing calendar for 2020.

Faye said the health and wellbeing calendar has been going just over a year – with a lot of initiatives around the likes of nutrition, sleep, mental health, and supporting events such as Gumboot Friday and Pink Ribbon Day.



The winning 6 week challenge team, L/R: Jack Senior, Shane Lawson, Sam Maurangi, Nic Boyle and Stuart Mitchell

AED Donated to McCallums Group



Sarah Brown (PowerNet director), Paul Harrington GM McCallums Group, Robin Eustace (St John), Rangi Solomon (PowerNet) and members of the McCallums Group team.

The McCallums Group Ltd is the latest Southern organisation to benefit from a life-saving donation from PowerNet and St John.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) was donated in September and is part of PowerNet and St John's sponsorship to improve public safety and education in the south.

When available within minutes of a cardiac arrest occurring, an AED can vastly improve a person's chance of survival.

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin said the AED donation was another way the company could support the Southern community to stay safe and healthy. Along with the AED donation, the PowerNet-funded programme would also provide two Level 1 First Aid training sessions.

"Our partnership with St John is about using our joint resources to promote safety in our communities, mostly through education. It's great that PowerNet is able to back this up with the donation of life-saving equipment such as AEDs," he said.

During the AED presentation to McCallums Group, St John southern territory manager Robin Eustace (pictured right) demonstrated CPR to the team.



Great results for the PowerNet cycling team

PowerNet's cycling team experienced some excellent results in the 63rd SBS Bank Tour of Southland – with riders taking out 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the general classification.

At the end of the Tour, PowerNet won the Wensley's Cycles Team Classification by more than 15 minutes ahead of Kia Motors-Ascot Park Hotel.

PowerNet riders occupied 3 of the top 4 positions when the final stage finished in Gala Street, Alex Heaney was 2nd, Hamish Schreurs 3rd and Antonie van Noppen 4th.

Antonie van Noppen clinched the Henderson Construction Under 23 title on the final stage. Antonie was ecstatic and said it was the first classification on a multi-stage race that he has won.

"It was the icing on the cake for the Dutchman," team manager Aaron Sinclair said.

Meanwhile, Ollie Jones won the Jesco Hydraulics King of the Mountains title, 11 points ahead of 2nd place.

Other highlights for PowerNet were Hamish Schreurs being awarded the most combative rider on the Invercargill to Gore stage on Friday.

After leading the Harcourts Sprint Ace classification for a couple of days, Ollie Jones finished 2nd overall.

Paul Odlin was hoping to win the Stonewood Homes Masters title he won for the past two years, but he missed out, with Glenn Haden of the Coupland's Bakery team overtaking him on the final stage.

Michael Vink, from Christchurch, successfully defended the title he won last year after finishing runner up the two years prior to that. The combined winning time was 20 hours 14 minutes, with Alex Heaney @2'38 and Hamish Schreurs @ 4'23".

The PowerNet cycling team was sponsored by PowerNet, Pure Nutrition and Tineli.

The team was managed by Aaron Sinclair with assistance from Jim Phair, Alaister Marshall, Steve Labes, Tony Corkill and Waric Cross. Jamie McIntyre from Wensley's Cycles was the team mechanic and Wendy Paterson and Anne Wilson massage therapists.

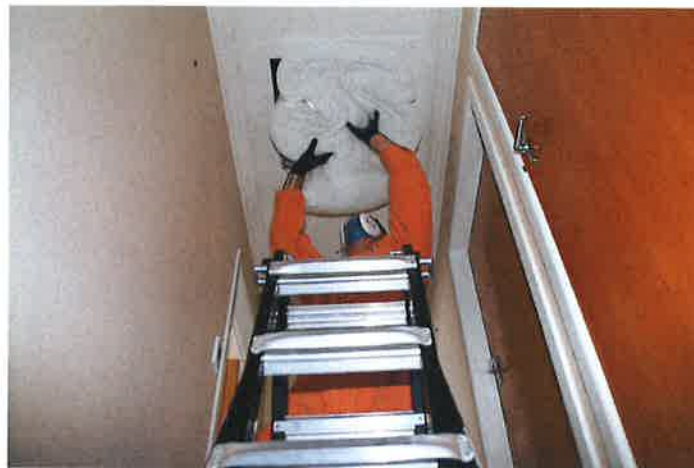
Some delicious evening meals were cooked for the riders by the PowerNet's family and partners, thanks to Maree Hallgath, Tracey Hutchison, Jan Phair, Linda Marshall and Janine Sinclair.

"All of the riders were really appreciative and very complimentary on the fantastic cooking they were served and asked me to pass on their best wishes and thanks," Aaron said.



*The PowerNet team on Saturday after the final stage in Gala Street.
L-R: Back Aaron Sinclair, Antonie van Noppen, Andrew King, Alex Heaney, Hamish Schreurs, Ollie Jones, Paul Odlin, Jamie McIntyre (Mechanic), Alaister Marshall Front: Steve Labes, Jim Phair, Tony Corkill, Wendy Paterson and Anne Wilson Massage therapists.*

Southland Warm Homes Trust making warmer kiwi homes



James Ratema (Awarua Synergy) installing insulation as part of the Southland Warm Homes Trust.

The Southland Warm Homes Trust is celebrating a very busy and successful year – with 561 homes insulated in the Southland and West Otago area through the new Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.

The Warmer Kiwi Homes programme funded by the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA), subsidises 67% of the cost of installing insulation in the homes of eligible low income families, with the Trust offering a further 25% contribution towards costs, with the low income home owners only required to pay the remaining 8% of costs, or roughly \$200-\$300 per home.

The success of the new scheme, which started on 1 October 2018, has been reflected in the large number of home owners taking up the offer, which is targeted at those who may not otherwise be able to afford the cost of insulating their home, and would have a higher risk of becoming sick with living in cold, damp conditions.

The Trust, in partnership with installation contractor Awarua Synergy, claimed more than \$1 million from EECA for insulation costs in the year to June 2019, which equated to 561 homes insulated in the Southland and West Otago area, a significant increase from the 351 homes installed in 2018, and 195 installs the year before that.

The Trust was established in 2008 by Electricity Invercargill Ltd and the Southland Electric Power Supply Consumer Trust as an umbrella group to drive a Southland-wide initiative to provide warm, insulated homes.

Its vision to ensure Southlanders have more energy efficient homes, an improved living environment and wellbeing, better health and greater energy efficiency awareness, continues today.

Since the Trust was established, more than 6,500 homes in Southland and West Otago have been insulated or retrofitted with its financial support.

Demand for insulation remains high running into the second year of the four-year Warmer Kiwi Homes Programme, with the scheme expanding to also offer a subsidised heat pump or wood burner installation for eligible low income homes from 1 July 2019. Homes with an old, inefficient heating source (eg. open fire) in the main living area, may be eligible to have 92% of the installation cost of a heating unit, covered under this scheme.

For enquiries regarding the insulation or heating offer, please contact Awarua Synergy (0800 927 676) or see details on the EECA website (www.energywise.govt.nz/warmer-kiwi-homes).

2019 Corporate Rowing challenge hailed as a success



L/R: Jack Wadworth, Ange Dixon, Metua Marama, Rukman Hewa, Allan Beck, Shirley Whitaker (front), Ben Williams, Paul Barclay, Symarah Bennett-Young, Jin Lo, Eric Sng and Matthew Ting.

A host of new staff members were among the hardy PowerNet crew who took on the Corporate Rowing Challenge on the Oreti River on 9 November.

Team manager Shirley Whitaker said a large crew of 12 enthusiastic staff from across the business jumped into the challenge.

“At least half were new staff, so it was a great teambuilding opportunity,” she said.

The crew were Jack Wadworth, Allan Beck, Anton Booyzen, Ang Dixon, Eric Sng, Jin Lo, Mathew Ting, Metua Marama, Paul Barclay, Rukman Hewa, Symarah Bennett-Young, and Shirley as Cox.

The team were again very ably coached by Dougal McDonald – who has been on board for the past eight years.

“As a build-up to the main event, the team participated in the ‘Indoor Event’ in October. Each person rowed 200m on an indoor rower (Erg) to complete the 2000m relay, with the team placing 3rd in the ‘B’ final,” Shirley said.

“Trainings were well supported with everyone on a quick learning curve to master the rowing techniques in under eight sessions. Stroke was Paul, who set the rating for the crew to follow and achieve our racing best.”

The crew got soaked in their Heat – in which they placed second – meaning they went straight through to the Semi-Final.

“The weather cleared up, and it was warm and favourable for our supporters on the bank cheering us on.”

PowerNet then placed 3rd in the Semi-Final against a tough line up of Decom and Opus, before winning the ‘C’ final – meaning the team came 9th overall.

“Everyone worked very hard, creating a great team spirit and achieving a satisfying result, and a very enjoyable day. Thanks to PowerNet for supporting staff participating in this corporate event,” Shirley says.

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Staff News

Welcome:

Adelardo Perren, Connor Mills, Denise Sullivan, David Stevens, Justin Humphrey, Nico Breet, Peter Sinclair, Alie Ziusudras, Tony Rooke and Alan Whiteland.

Farewell:

Matthew Brown, Michelle Henderson, Trudy De Thierry, Mark Payne, Leighton Bagrie, Brendan Watson.

Welcome to our two temporary staff:

Caleb Thomson, (HSE administration assistant), Samuel Loan (Summer internship programme) and Laura Corkill (Customer support administrator).

Babies:

Lauren Ridder and partner Robert on the birth of Alexander Robert, born on 26 November weighing in at 7lb 12oz.

Congratulations to:

Tony Corkill on passing his PRINCE2 Agile® Practitioner exam. Tony is now certified as a PRINCE2 Agile® Practitioner and a PRINCE2® 2017 Practitioner. Shaun Colley and Tony Clarke on gaining their Connexis Workplace Assessor registration.

2019 Santa Parades



Above: Invercargill Santa Parade on Saturday 30 November.



Above: Balclutha Santa Parade on Saturday 7 December.