

March 2016

ACROSS *the* LINES



PowerNet staff left to right: Jim Matheson (Field Services Manager East), Justin Peterson (Service & Delivery Integration Manager), Jan van Staden (Field Services Manager West).

MILESTONE DATE 31 MARCH 2016
POWERNET AND OTAGO POWER SERVICES LIMITED AMALGAMATE

ACROSS *the* LINES

Lean is Here The First Three Pillars Are In Place

The five pillars of the PowerNet lean management programme have been established with the first three pillars under way, PowerNet Business Improvement Manager Rachael Watt says.

"We have the five pillars of lean management that will be operating simultaneously in the near future. Currently we have process improvements to the customer connections process being developed, the Opportunities For Improvement (OFI) committee is working through the OFIs raised in relation to the customer connection process, 5S training has been completed for our first cohort with two more cohorts to go through training, each depot has a pilot 5S area to be working on and health and safety is ongoing," Rachael says.



Mark Isaac, Gore Depot

Twenty staff from 11 different sites have completed the 5S training. "Representatives from each of our depots have recently completed their 5S training. The training consisted of three hands-on training sessions with facilitator Clinton Yeats and the team running a pilot 5S area in each depot," Rachael says.

"The different teams picked a section of their depot and are working through the first 3S's: sort, set in order and shine. They should also be completing audits of their pilot area on a fortnightly basis."

"The final 2'S' areas are standardise - standardising everything to ensure everyone does the same job the same way and creating visual standards - and sustain - to cement the previous 4 S's, ensure they are maintained and that no one slips back into bad habits. This is a long term programme with up to three months being allowed for the sort, set in order and shine for each area."

She says that each depot and business area has been broken into manageable 5S areas and a rollout schedule for 5S has been established. After the team has finished with the pilot area, they move into the next 5S area and follow the 5S procedure there.

"OFI committee continues to meet regularly and we are working their way through the OFI's raised in relation to the customer connection process. The members of this committee are Jason Franklin, Justin Peterson, Rob Tweedie, Tony Corkill, Mark Zwies, Barry Anderson, Craig O'Callahan, Peter Eastwood and I," Rachael says.

The ultimate goal of lean management is to eliminate the non-value adding activities (otherwise known as waste) throughout the business process. This will improve our productivity and efficiency and therefore add value to our customers. It makes sense that PowerNet is adopting lean management.

Rachael says it will take approximately three years to implement 5S across the whole business and it will be a continuing journey of improvement.

"The lean management boards that staff can see represent each of the pillars of the programme. They are a central visual system to track and communicate our progress. We will get to a point (hopefully in the not too distant future) where our key performance measures are displayed on the various boards and are understood by all staff," she says.

Rachael has ultimate responsibility for the lean management programme, with help from Ray King and Rob Tweedie who are the 5S pillar heads.

Southern Field Days 2016

1.



2.



1. The PowerNet/St John site
 2. Chris Walker's wife Catherine learning AED techniques
 3 and 4. The Walker twins Elizabeth and James (aged 6) with the St John Ambie

3.



4.



The 2016 Southern Field Days held at Waimumu in February were a great way for PowerNet and St John to promote their partnership to the southern community.

General Manager Business Support Tim Brown says attending the event enabled PowerNet to promote both farm safety messages and our sponsorship of the St John First Aid training courses and the St John in Schools programme.

"Our focus was on the four metre rule and farm safety. PowerNet staff from Invercargill, Gore and Balclutha attended the three day event and spoke to network customers about farm safety, vegetation control, smart meters and the Before U Dig Service," Tim says.

A PowerNet branded bucket truck was parked on site and it provided a competition focused around the height of the bucket. Fifteen winners were drawn with each receiving a free St John First Aid training course in Riverton, Invercargill or Gore.

"Children's PowerNet safety messages were also attached to St John branded helium balloons and given out to children who visited our site," Tim says.

A St John team also attended demonstrating CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) techniques to the public. This was exceptionally well received by all who visited the site.

St John Area Executive Officer (Gore) Vicki Kelly says St John's attendance was beneficial for both companies as not only did it promote our relationship but it was also a great place to demonstrate first aid and AED use.

Maximum Maximo – Almost

What's happening in Maximo? Quite a lot as you can see from the list below. Other features will be gradually implemented over the next few months after some configuration has been undertaken, documentation has been generated and training has been provided – so watch this space.

In Maximo, users will be able to:

- Build Compatible Units from approved Standard Construction Drawings
- Build Preventive Maintenance regimes to generate inspection Work Orders
- Create Job Work Plans (activities) built for Preventive Maintenance (PM) regimes
- Create a Work Schedule that is visible to all Maximo users
- Enable Supervisors to manage work by assigning Crews/Labour, Plant and Vehicles using Graphical Assignment and to change Work Order status
- Have the ability to create "Follow Up" Work Orders based on defects found from inspection Work Orders

PowerNet receive a daily update from Corys Electrical of its parts catalogue. The Maximo Item Master is updated and any Compatible Units and unapproved Work Orders are updated to keep everything in sync.

Configuration and screen changes were made to the following applications (Assets, Work Order Tracking, Preventive Maintenance, Scheduler, Job Plans, Routes, Purchasing, Labour, Tools, Inventory, Compatible Units, Compatible Units Estimating) to improve the user interface.

The following concepts have been tested in the Maximo TEST environment and will be implemented gradually from 2016/2017 Quarter 1 onwards:

- Create PMs for specific monthly Substation Checks in West and East areas
- Create Meters for Substation Check PMs
- Create Job Plans or specific PM assets
- Winton Pilot - Build a Work Schedule to replicate Supervisor's "Black Book"

Doon Street Substation



Transformer 2 was moved from Doon Street to Spey Street late in January. Installation of the 33/11kV transformer is being undertaken and will be lived in at Spey Street on 29 March 2016.

Waikiwi Substation



PowerNet's Ben Williams (Scholarship student) and Sean O'Connor (Network Assets Engineer) watching the 11.5-23MVA transformer (T1) being installed at the Waikiwi Substation in January. T1 will be commissioned in April. Soon after this, Stage 2 of the project will begin.

ASB House (Sub 519)



PowerNet's Electrical Fitter/Cable Jointer Paul Barclay working on the switchgear for Sub 519 scheduled to be installed at the new ASB House (Don Street) later in April. The transformer is a 1MVA Etel and the switchgear is Halo.

Safety Training Day Around The Depots

PowerNet's Safety Days ensure our staff stay safe and comply with the required safety standards.

Refresher day courses were recently held for all Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) field staff.

Each of the OPSL staff participated in First Aid refreshers, pole top rescues and individual testing procedures conducted by OPSL Electrical Technician Phil Ramage.

Staff also watched presentations on the revised Safety Management - Electrical Industry booklets, safe manual handling, learnings from ICAM investigations, the introduction of the new Personal Protective Equipment Matrix, tailgate procedures, safety initiatives for vehicles and a speak-up video.



OPSL staff attending their Safety Day training

Our New PPE Requirements

Wearing gloves on work sites is now compulsory – even for visitors.

"We have revised the format of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) matrix to make it easier to follow," PowerNet Health Safety Environment and Quality (HSEQ) Manager Graeme Webby says.

"As part of that review, it was decided that work gloves were a necessary addition for our work sites. We set high standards for health and safety because we want to keep our people safe," he says.

The revised PPE matrix makes it simple for staff and contractors to select the appropriate level of PPE for each situation.

"Staff need to remember the matrix sets the minimum standard for each worksite – and because it doesn't cover every possible scenario, staff still need to do hazard identification and risk assessment at each work site they encounter," Graeme says.

"It may be that some work sites require alternative PPE and that's why a thorough review needs to be done at every site we work at."

There's some good news for those who feel work gloves don't match their clothes.

"In situations where gloves may be more of a hindrance, then they can be left off – but this must be identified and noted in the hazard identification process," Graeme says.



PowerNet Staff Play Paintball

A group of PowerNet staff unwound from their busy week with a game of Paintball at Crossfire Paintball Range in Otatara in March.

Two teams of five played two games of 'Capture the Flag.' Photographed are left to right Carike (Alan Kelbrick's partner) Ione Pau, Sam Maurangi, Orion Gallagher, Kevin O'Connor, Gene Brookland, Alan Kelbrick and John Murphy (absent from the photo were Jack Senior and Joe Clarke).

Well done guys and girls, it certainly looks like you all had fun.



No Siesta For Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority

Stewart Island is a beautiful holiday destination – but for PowerNet Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Technicians Mark Aimers and Quinn Aicken it was all work, work, work for three days.

"This trip was stage two of a two stage project. We wanted to confirm some positions of poles, transformer numbers and Installation Control Points from stage one and have some questions answered by the operators of that network. This time we located and identified ground based transformers and pillar boxes as well as confirming the position of most cables," Mark says.

PowerNet manages the Island network for the Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) on behalf of the Southland District Council (SDC).

"The SDC's original data needed to be updated. Identifying circuits, labelling and Global Positioning Systeming (GPS) assets in the field and matching those to the existing features in GIS gives PowerNet the ability to access information for analysis and maintain the standard of the network on behalf of the District Council," Mark says.

"The security of knowing what is happening electrically and for ongoing maintenance from a safety aspect is also very important to PowerNet and the SIESA network owners."

The information is now being loaded on to PowerNet's GIS system.

"Quinn is working on this as a project and it has allowed him to become familiar with electrical networks and their assets which involves asset identification, placement and connectivity," Mark says.

"Basically all the data is loaded on our GIS system already and we are just updating the Council data so we can use the data to manage the assets for SDC."

The three days was labour-intensive. Quinn prepared a series of maps using Hexagon's GeoMedia software, showing the location of transformers, pillars and cables that we were keen to find and position.

The two intrepid explorers then used a cable locator to find and follow cables and a Trimble GPS to record the position of the assets.

Mark says Stewart Island is a beautiful place; the bird life is wonderful and the people are unbelievably friendly and helpful.

"If you ever get the chance to stay there, make sure you do. Keep your eyes peeled for kiwis, kakapo and the MAD Mexican's car," he says.

More Than Trees Near Lines

Otago Power Services Limited arborist teams undertake customer work as a well as network vegetation management.

In a recent case, the Palmerston team was called on to help in sectioning down a large macrocarpa tree which towered over the customer's residence and sleepout.

Mark Way and Justin Peterson arrived to audit the site as preparations were made to fell the last large stump section.

Deon Bridger, and Adam Kirkman played a part in directing and conveying safety messages while Mike Blair wielded the chainsaw to make the final cuts after hitting a glass window inside the stump.

Arborist supervisor Chris Carey reported the customer was very happy with the quality of the job done and the bill!

All in all a great team effort by the Palmerston Arborist Team.

If you know of anyone who needs help with large trees – especially those near network assets – let the in-house arborists know. While priority is given to work on our networks, they may be able to help as they did in the case above, and it's great practice for them.



Palmerston Arborists Deon Bridger, Mike Blair, Adam Kirkman and Mark Way

Sub 510 - Our Own Buried Time Capsule

So what did 1965 look like? – J.K Rowling was born, Sir Winston Churchill died. It was also a big year for Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL).

That 50 years of history disappeared without a lot of ceremony in February as EIL's network upgrades continue. Underground substation 510, almost directly outside the front door of the Kelvin Hotel in downtown Invercargill, had been in place since 1965 when the hotel was built.

In February 2016, it came out after eight months of intense planning and preparation.

"The substation was put in (underground) at the same time the hotel was built, because the back wall of the substation was also built as a foundation wall for the hotel," PowerNet General Manager Technical & Network Performance Keith Burns says.

"From what we have been able to find out, the increase in demand from the hotel was going to need a new supply, so that was why the substation was built at the same time. Apparently there was another opening (a chute) next to the underground substation for the coal to go in to feed the boiler which was on the other side of the wall, inside the hotel."

The substation also fed out into the surrounding low voltage network.

Keith says it was a big project to manage for the network owners.

"We had a number of issues with bringing the substation above ground. These were finding a suitable location, getting landowners to grant an easement for a new site, a considerable amount of trenching and re-routing of cables, and keeping power on to businesses in the central business district while changing circuits. Added to that was the importance of maintaining foot traffic in the area and making sure people could get in and out of the Kelvin Hotel," he says.

The substation was still operational, but its age was against it.

"There has never been a problem with the underground substation and the reason it was decommissioned was due to safety concerns with operating the aged equipment," Keith says.

The project, under the supervision of PowerNet's Technical Project Manager Phil Hartley, saw PowerNet change the Southland Times Building to an alternate supply, to allow the upgrade of their site to supply the Kelvin Hotel with a new 1,000kVA transformer.

"Our project team removed the redundant equipment from the old site and demolished the structure to one metre below ground level. Then the trucks came in, filled up the hole, and that was that," Keith says.

He says the team of Phil Hartley (Technical Project Manager), Ray King (Technical Distribution Supervisor), Jason Nicolson (Electrical Fitter/Cable Joiner), Paul Barclay (Electrical Fitter/Cable Joiner), Jordan Coutts (Technical Apprentice) and Herb Rikkerink (Technician) did a great job. Outside contractors Bond Contracts, Graeme Anderson Electrical, JK Stevenson and Ryal Bush Transport made the final project run smoothly.



The old 1962 750kVA transformer being lifted above ground and the new 1,000kVA transformer behind The Southland Times

ACROSS^{the}LINES

Christmas Holiday's Colouring Competition Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the PowerNet Colouring In and Draw your Parent at Work Competition.

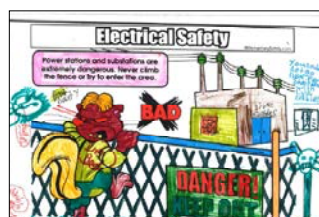


Overall winner: Maddy
(Ray King's granddaughter)

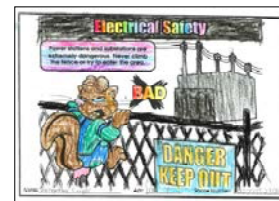
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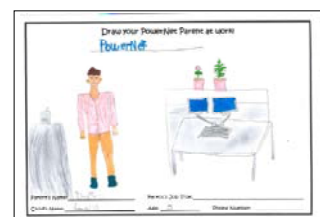
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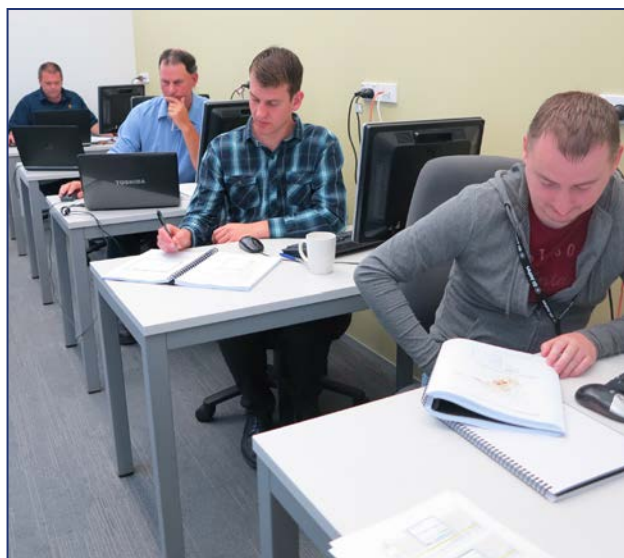


4.



1. 0-4 years - Izrah Tredinnick (John Murphy's son)
2. 5-8 years - Summer Barclay (Paul's daughter)
3. 9+ years - Samantha Cooper - (Bevan's daughter)
4. Honorable Mention - Amelia Shiliaga (Dmitrii's daughter)

GeoMedia Training Held at Racecourse Road Office



GeoMedia training for eight PowerNet staff was held at the Racecourse Road training room in March.

Ken Mathers from Hexagon Geospatial presented the four day course with attendees learning all aspects of the GeoMedia application. The application works with and conducts analysis on existing geographic information and database information to produce maps from that analysis.

PowerNet's Operations Systems Manager Daniel Wijkstra says the GeoMedia will be used for mapping indepth information such as the networks' line information, substations and equipment on the networks we manage.

(Front to back) Quinn Aicken, Sean O'Connor, Mark Hastie, Chris Walker (absent from the photo were Lloyd Williamson, Carol Lowe and trainer Ken Mathers from Hexagon Geospatial)

Thanks to:

Tania Cribb, Faye McLeod, Tim Brown and Roger Paterson for representing PowerNet and collecting at Windsor New World (Invercargill) for this year's Heart Foundation Annual Appeal.

(Pictured right: Roger Paterson)



Vehicle Branding Nears Completion



A total of 80 Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) vehicles have now been rebranded ready for the official integration to PowerNet on 31 March.

OPSL Regional Manager Jim Matheson says the rebranding was completed by Jim Marshall Sign Advertising, Signworks Balclutha and Vincent Holdings Alexandra.

“The vehicles were completed prior to 31 March so they could be done in a timely manner with very little interference to the works programs in each area,” Jim says.

New Drone To Assist In Inspections

The networks PowerNet manages have many structures – mainly poles and towers – all of which require a pole top inspection.

PowerNet’s Senior Distribution Project Manager Barrie Duffin says in the past ‘top down’ inspections have been completed using binoculars from the ground and Go Pros fitted to a height stick.

“Unfortunately there are limitations on using the Go Pro on a height stick as once you get above 12 metres, the flexibility of the height stick causes the camera to move making it difficult to obtain a good image of the pole top,” Barrie says.

To overcome these height restrictions, PowerNet recently purchased a Phantom 3 Advanced drone. The drone comes with a fitted camera which enables the visual assessment of structure tops.

“Being able to obtain a good image is critical to our pole inspection regime,” he says.

The drone will also provide imagery of hard to access faults and ‘top down’ imagery of accidents and incidents if and when required.

Like all tools the drone does have its limitations; from a regulatory perspective, when in use, PowerNet staff need to comply with Civil Aviation Authority rules.

Permission must be sought to fly over private property and people. Approvals and licenses or requirements must be met to enable drone flight in controlled airspace (certain distances from a certified aerodrome). The operator must maintain visual contact at all times and keep flights below 120 metres. Night flight is prohibited. Physically, high winds prohibit drone operation.

“I am sure as pole inspectors and project managers get familiar with operating the drone, it will be used more as our flying skills evolve.” Barrie says.



Above: The drone in action

Below: Barrie Duffin and the drone



Gore Estimators Prepared For Integration

The Gore depot is now able to offer a full turnkey solution to network owners and customers with the appointment of Fraser Neil and Steve Galog as project managers.

"We have the ability, with the skilled team from Gore, to have a functional depot that can offer a full service from distribution and customer project work," PowerNet Service & Delivery Integration Manager Justin Peterson says.

"The appointment of Fraser and Steve means they can work with customers in the region directly and also have the supervisor and field teams available when required. This allows the project manager to have immediate visibility if there are any potential issues during projects. The supervisor and field teams have direct access to the Project Manager's so questions or issues can be dealt with immediately," he says.

Fraser and Steve, who were previously key members of the Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) team, have spent 12 months training on PowerNet systems and processes for distribution and connections.

"They have initiated training and have shown real leadership by working hard to bring themselves up to speed with what was required to step into their Project Management roles," Justin says. "They will now be managing projects and be responsible for the end to end process."

Steve and Fraser will be based in Gore, but will assist in other regions as required. Steve says the new role is exciting.

"The transition from OPSL to PowerNet has been very smooth, and I'd like to thank Ron Faulkner and Barrie Duffin for the training and support," he says.

Boys on Bikes

Four PowerNet staff are now confident after attending a 'Ride Forever' Motorcycle Course held at PowerNet's Racecourse Road office in late January.

Health, Safety, Environment and Quality Manager Graeme Webby says the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) initiative, Ride Forever Motorcycle Course, was presented by Pete Daly from Motorcycle Training.

"Nathan Donnelly and Rob Tweedie attended the full day of training which included both theory and practical exercises and Mary-Anne and Peter Smith attended just the theory session," Graeme says.

The ACC subsidised course was based on the attendees' needs and experiences and covered aspects such as braking, cornering, observation, anticipation and interacting with traffic.

Rob says "Only having ridden a motorbike for a year, I found attending this course has increased my confidence and skill level, particularly at corners and on-road positioning. Nothing beats learning from somebody with Pete's level of experience."

Experienced rider Nathan says ""I gained valuable riding tips from Pete which will both enhance my road skills and improve safety when riding my bikes."



Rob Tweedie, Nathan Donnelly and Pete Daly



Relay for Life



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2.



3.



5.

1. Bruce Reinke and Sean O'Connor 2. Regan, Waric and Sean Cross 3. Mackensie and Helana Middlemiss 4. The Survivors and Carers lap of honor 5. Shirley Whitaker and Dave Griffiths.

PowerNet experienced excellent walking conditions during this year's 2016 Southland Relay for Life, held at Rugby Park Stadium on the 19 and 20 March.

PowerNet's Relay for Life Team Captain Mary-Anne Smith says the weather conditions were remarkably warm and dry during the 22 hours making it an even greater and enjoyable event for all who participated.

Pre-event fundraising for PowerNet had taken place over a six week period and included three morning teas, an Easter Raffle and a sponsored Surf to City Fun Run.

"PowerNet Line Mechanic Kevin O'Connor decided to fundraise by seeking sponsorship for his participation in the 12km Surf to City event which had been held the Sunday prior to the Relay," Mary-Anne says.

Kevin says "I have had to deal with immediate family members fighting cancer as I'm sure some others have as well. We have seen how awful it is for people battling and fighting hard against this awful disease."

"We will know our total raised after the Easter Raffle has been drawn," Mary-Anne says.

Mary-Anne would like to thank walkers Shirley Whitaker, Waric, Sean and Regan Cross, Stella O'Connor, Rose and Tony Snell, Trish and Geoff Hazlett, Jason Franklin, Barry Kereama, Maree Hallgath, Sally Mcleod, Dave Griffiths, Helana and Mackensie Middlemiss, Alex Herring and Mary-Anne's daughter Jessica. Also a big thankyou to Bruce Reinke, Sean O'Connor, Steve Labes, Shirley Whitaker, Graeme Webby, Tony Snell for their assistance in erecting and dismantling the PowerNet tent.

ACROSS^{the}LINES

Mark's Venturer Adventure

Otago Power Services Limited Arborist and Compliance Manager Mark Way took eight days annual leave to travel with his group of 10 Balclutha Venturers to the Bay of Plenty in January.

Venturer Scouts are 14^{1/2}-18 year olds.

"When we got to the main base at Lakes Ranch in Rotorua, we dispersed and you could spend five days on an expedition of your choice and then five days back at the main base," Mark says.

The activities included kayaking, tramping, caving, exploring the area, diving, paddock cars and rally driving plus heaps of other stuff, he says.

Mark ended up leading an expedition group of 19 teenagers - mainly Australians - in kayaking.

"Starting at Kayak Waimarino Fun Park (Tauranga) where professional trainers upskilled the Venturers in things like gear and equipment, edge, roll, paddle strokes etc. for two days, we then headed to Kawarau via the Matata coastline for a day's practice on grade one rapids on the Tarawera River."

"Following this, we headed to Lake Aniwhenua – PowerNet's new purchase - and had two days kayaking and rafting grade two rapids on the Rangitikaiki River."

Mark says the Venturers camped in tents and the weather was a mixed bag of hot and humid to cool and rain.

"The five days at Lakes Ranch then consisted of a variety of activities of half to one day's duration. Helicopter rides, skydiving, gliding, beach tours, horse trekking, shooting, shopping, Hobbiton, blobbing out, and then at night a big DJ dance party for the Venturers to let off some steam !"



Mark Way at Mt Maunganui



Mark says a great time was had by all the Venturers and leaders despite the late nights, logistical hiccups, and lack of fitness on his part.

"I was thoroughly impressed by the group of teenagers I was in charge of and very humbled by their vote of thanks at the conclusion of it all," Mark says.

SCOUT FACT: Did you know Dan Carter was a Cub Scout?

The Venturers kayaking at Tarawera River

2nd Year Line Mechanics training At Racecourse Road

(left to right) Jack Senior (PowerNet), Tony Boudier (trainer from MITA Consultants Ltd), Jake Wilson (DELTA Utility Services - Cromwell) and Sam Stewart (PowerNet) observing Slade Evans (PowerNet) fitting the crossarm to the pole in preparation for erecting the pole. The practical training was held during the group's block course as they study towards gaining their NZQA Line Mechanic Distribution (L4) qualifications.



Controlled Substance License Holders' Refresher Training

In late February, the hills of Owaka Valley were alive with the sound of...BLASTING as Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) staff undertook a refresher course at Awatea Station for Controlled Substance License Holders run by explosives experts from Explosive and Pyrotechnic Solutions (EPS).

"You know that things are going to be interesting when Dave and Craig, the trainers, wear shirts that say 'I specialise in violent chemical reactions'," says OPSL compliance manager Mark Way.

In 2015, Mark carried out an extensive audit and revamp of OPSL blasting procedures and documentation and a follow up to that, was the attendance on this course by blasters from Ranfurly, Palmerston and Balclutha.

"Line crews often face situations where solid rock is encountered part way through drilling a new pole hole (possibly in a shutdown) and have to quickly devise a method to overcome the obstruction," Mark says.

"A raft of new skills were taught and an audit of existing skills undertaken by EPS tutors Dave and Craig. These skills can now be applied quickly and safely to overcome solid rock obstacles if and when encountered."

Feedback from course participants was that it is the best course they have ever attended, due to the theory content delivery by the tutors backed up by good practical exercises i.e. blowing a lot of stuff to pieces out in the field.

Feedback from the tutors was that the attention paid to course material was exemplary and that the company has a fantastic collection of staff trained to a high standard now and they look forward to seeing our guys blasting in the field sometime in the future.

There is even some handy feedback from a Health Safety Environment & Quality perspective.

"We found out in a hurry that Personal Protective Equipment with reflective strips are no good when you're blasting – the strips create static charges!" Mark says.

Course attendees were: Vaughan Dowling, Warren Dobson, David Keenan, Wayne Lindsay, Gavin Anderson, Chris Walker, Lyndon Whale, Colin Melvin, Murray Dickie and Kevin Crossan.



PowerNet and Otago Power Services Limited teams training with EPS tutor Dave Craig

Around the Depots

The OtagoNet network

- Balclutha teams are working on the Kilmog 11kV line construction project, live line maintenance on the Clarks 33kV line, Barnego 33kV line upgrade, the River Road new 11kV line construction and the Riversdale Lumsden 33kV pole replacement project.
- The Ranfurly team is working on the Kyeburn Waipiata 11kV tie plus red tag poles and other minor maintenance.
- The Staff at Pamerston Depot are working on the Kilmog 11kV line reconstruction plus other maintenance as required.

The Power Company Limited network

- Onslow Depot field teams; general maintenance and storm repairs have been keeping the teams busy. They have recently commenced maintenance on the 66kV line at North Makarewa.
- Winton Depot have been working on completing the linework for the Isla Bank Substation and a new dairy farm connection near Riverton.
- The Lumsden team are working on road crossing maintenance, replacing old wires and ABC around their area.
- In the Gore area the teams are working on red tag poles on State Highway 1 at Edendale. In Kakapo Street a ground mount transformer which services a small subdivison is being replaced. 11kV feeder maintenance on Waikaka 2 Feeder is currently also underway.

Around the Depots continued

The Electricity Invercargill Limited network

The Onslow Depot Technical team have begun the relocating of the networks' underground link boxes to above ground. Two link box relocations will be completed per month. The project involves many hours of planning and preparing equipment, with the cable jointing work undertaken at night over a period of two to three nights.

Cable work around the Spey Street Substation to support the commissioning of Transformer 2 has also been keeping the teams busy. At Doon Street, a replacement transformer has been installed to replace one that was damaged during the decommissioning of Doon Street Substation.

The Electricity Southland Limited network

Shotover Country Subdivision in Frankton sees the reticulation of Stage 10 completed and livened. There are approximately 67 lots. Stage 11 is awaiting design approval.

Shotover Country second supply cable is currently being installed from the Glenda Drive intersection through to the Stalker Road Roundabout (this includes the section on the Shotover Bridge). The installation including cable joints and livening will be completed by 1 April.

The Remarkables Park cabling along with a transformer are being installed in buildings T20 and 21 at the Ramada Hotel and Retail Centre respectively.

Cable laying has commenced at the Lakes Edge development adjacent to Kawarau Village (Hilton Hotel).

The Bridesdale development has the design and pricing completed. The cable route is from Jones Avenue-Woodstock Road Corner through to the lower end of the Bridesdale Development. The development still requires resource consent approval.

Riverton Switch Board

Riverton's electricity supply has left the '50s behind and entered the 21st century.

PowerNet Project Manager Nathan Donnelly says a scheduled replacement project at the seaside town's substation had made the local electricity supply safer, more reliable and efficient.

"There was 1950s switchgear at Riverton that had reached the end of its useful life, and we have replaced that with a modern switchboard," Nathan says.

The \$1.28 million project was carried out in two stages over January-February 2015 and February-March 2016.

Work was carried out by Electrix and PowerNet teams, with the switchboard being manufactured by RPS Switchgear in Wellington.

"We also took the opportunity to install a neutral earth resistor (NER) to improve safety at the substation," Nathan says.

"Its part of our overall goal to bring the age of our network assets down and make the supply more safe, efficient and reliable for all our customers," Nathan says.



Left: The old switchgear is removed, a concrete pad laid and the new switchgear (right) placed into position



Wood Chip Container On The Move

A massive wood chip container made an eight kilometre journey to its new home in Balclutha in February.

Otago Power Services Limited (OPSL) Estimator Graeme Hills says the 7.5m high by 11m wide wood chip container made its journey from the old Rosebank Sawmill to Hollows Timber Limited in Kakapuaka with no hitches along the way.

"OPSL played a major role in the move. Two crews which involved nine line mechanics dropped 11kV lines along the route and power was disconnected to 20 OtagoNet network customers for about four hours," Graeme says.

Fulton Hogan transported the container with the assistance of Waikouaiti Engineering, who dismantled the container for the move and reassembled it at Hollows Timber Limited.

The wood chip container will allow Hollows Timber Limited to utilise their waste product and make it into export quality wood chips.



The wood chip container heading towards Hollows Timber Limited

And The Winners of the February Darts Challenge are....



Congratulations to PowerNet's Onslow Depot on their win against the Winton Depot.

Results of the six monthly challenge: Onslow Depot - 4 games (8 legs) and Winton 2 games (7 legs).

PowerNet Field Safety and Training Advisor Phil Johnson says, "It was close and Winton needed one more game to force a playoff, but alas, it was not to be."

Better luck next time team Winton.

Open Day Held At Flat Hill Wind Farm

Southern Generation held an open day in February at the Flat Hill Wind Farm in Bluff. The open day was run in conjunction with the Bluff Flower Show. The local event brought people from all around the Southland region to view both flowers and turbines.

Pioneer Supervisor Darren Hart says there were over 300 visitors to the site showing there is sustainable public interest in wind generation.

"Most of those who attended commented very positively about the site. It was certainly a great opportunity for the locals to get to see these turbines up close. We found it a very positive experience for all involved." Darren says.



Members of the public looking around the Flat Hill Wind Farm

Southern Generation is owned by Pioneer and the PowerNet shareholders Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited.

New Staff

Welcome to our new staff
Gore Depot



Sheamus McGuigan
Trainee Line Mechanic

James Hargest College -Gateway Student



Sean Burrows
Gateway Student

Baby Congratulations

Lance and Alice Harris on the birth of their son Fletcher Alan born on Saturday 27 February.

Farewell

Gillian Wilson and Ben Williams.

Congratulations Flynn

Congratulations go to Flynn Sinclair (Aaron's son) on winning the junior category of the Across Lake Te Anau swim held in February. Flynn completed the 1.9km swim in 27 minutes and 8 seconds.

Staff Achievements

NZQA National Certificate in Electricity Supply Line Mechanic (Level 4)
- Kaleb Groen, Daniel Marshall, Chris Lane (Balclutha), Liam Mahon, Cole Birse (Gore), Joshua Arthur (Onslow Depot)

NZQA National Certificate in Electricity Supply Line Mechanic Distribution (Level 4) Joe Richards (Lumsden)

NZQA National Certificate Electricity Supply in Electrical Fitter
Sachin Chand (Onslow Depot)

NZQA National Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (Level 3)
Lisa Terepai (Onslow Depot)

SIT Graduate Diploma in Information Technology - Dmitrii Shliaga

Sporting Accomplishments

Congratulations to Jordan Coutts on his selection in the Southland Touch Rugby Open Mixed team which participated in the Touch National Championships in Christchurch in early March. The team were placed 4th overall.

Well done Team PowerNet who entered in the Challenge Wanaka Triathlon in February. The team of Kaleb Groen (run), Kimberly Pellett (swim) and Fraser Morrison (bike) gained a well placed 76th in the team division.

Southland Electric Power Supply Trustee, Jim Hargest completed three mountainbike events in February and March. Riding his 9th Hokonui Moonshine Trail Jim achieved an overall placing of 22nd and an overall 10th in both the Whitehill Classic and Mt Linton Muster.

No strangers to the Motatapu mountainbike event saw Steve Labes (3 hours 2min) and Justin Peterson (2 hours 49 mins) complete their rides.

Both agreed the combination of overcast, calm conditions and more training assisted them in gaining their personal best race times.

A tiger for punishment also saw Justin Peterson also complete the Taieri Coastal Classic, (51km), Bannock Burn Gutbuster (75km) Gore Moonshine Trail (43km), Glenham Train Wreck (43km), Mt Linton Muster (40km) and Hawea Epic (125km).

Well done to Kevin O'Connor who participated in this year's Surf to City. Kevin ran the 12 km in 1hour 6 minutes.

Happy Retirement John MacDonal

John retired on 22 March.

He has been a valuable member of the System Control team for over 45 years. John is looking forward to relaxing and spending more time with his family in New Zealand and overseas.

We wish you well for your retirement.

