

# PBA NEWS

PBA News Issue 5 December 2012

## CONTENTS

- Page 1**  
Three initiatives unique to PBA
- 
- Page 2**  
PBA's Capability Statement
- 
- Page 3**  
Digby Campbell - Project Management in the Waitaki Valley
- 
- Page 3**  
PBA staff attend HVDC Pole 1 Decommissioning Ceremony
- 
- Page 3**  
PBA Enters 5th Year of Operation
- 
- Page 4**  
PBA Soccer Team
- 
- Page 4**  
Project Management software trial progressing well

## Three initiatives unique to PBA

**PBA have continued enhancing a cable jointing service of unrivalled technical expertise and quality of service. In pursuing this vision PBA have 3 key initiatives which we're proud to be able to share with the industry.**

PBA now can now offer specialist factory trained expertise in another branch of the electrical industry having become the first cable jointing group in New Zealand to have all jointing staff factory trained and accredited in Pfisterer, 3M, Coopers, Nexan and Raychem branded products. This provides a versatile work force from a single electrical contractor.



*Rob Silcock (PBA CEO), PBA jointers Paul Barker, Ben Nokes & Tom Bromfield with Paul Godfrey (Tyco)*

Paul Godfrey (right) and PBA CEO Rob Silcock (left) awarded cable jointers Paul Barker, Ben Nokes and Tom Bromfield their 11kV and 33kV Raychem product accreditation cards making PBA one of the first companies in New Zealand to obtain this type of Raychem accreditation.

The Manufacturer factory training programme, administered in Australia, has been completed in conjunction with the development of our second initiative; a unique Quality Management System. With client and manufacturer input, PBA has developed a database which tracks details and photographic evidence of every joint completed. A key feature of this system allows client visibility to precise details of jointing works being completed on their network as a job progresses. This initiative has been appreciated by our clients who have complimented the transparency. *PTO.*

**Wellington Office**  
53A Kenepuru Drive  
Porirua, Wellington  
PO Box 54191  
Mana, Wellington 5247  
Phone: 04 237 7297  
Fax: 04 237 7163

**Christchurch Office**  
Unit C, 33 Foremans Road  
Hornby, Christchurch  
Phone: 03 344 2972  
Fax: 03 344 2973

Continued from page 1.

Successfully implementing these first two initiatives has given PBA the confidence to now offer clients a 5 year warranty on our cable jointing installation services.

PBA's vision and goal to train and retain staff within New Zealand for the benefit of the industries we work within, has led to experienced PBA cable jointers supplying training to Wellington Electricity (WE) and their contractors. The training modules and course material have been developed exclusively by PBA and is tailored to the WE network environment.

PBA has been doing a considerable volume of work for Northpower in both Wellington and the Central North Island. The majority of this work has been cable terminations and joints although involvement is expanding to also include specialist power system technician work.



*PBA's Paul Barker recording details of a cable joint in the new database*

## **PBA's Capability Statement**

Throughout New Zealand's electrical industry, across transmission and distribution networks, there is an ever growing skills gap with Technicians, Electrical and Mechanical Fitters and Project Managers all in short supply. Compounding the effects of this shortage is the fact much of the expertise still remaining within New Zealand is spread widely across various organisations and geographic regions.

This well established trend of industry talent diluting is a trend PBA is proudly flying in the face of. Our business formation pooled together expertise across a variety of disciplines and the range of services offered has steadily increased. PBA's newer capabilities include Dielectric Frequency Response (DFR) analysis of power transformers using an Omicron Dirana. This test provides a measurement of the insulation moisture content. We also provide Swept Frequency Response Analysis (SFRA) using a Megger FRAX and Frequency of Stray Losses (FRSL) using an Omicron CPC 100. These tests can diagnose mechanical and electrical faults in transformers that other methods are unable to detect. PBA staff have the expertise to operate and intuitively interpret the results from this test equipment.

Combining these new investments with technically skilled staff and the addition of a cable jointing capability has positioned PBA as an industry leader in a broad range of services. Condition assessment, replacement and upgrade projects across a wide range of technologies as well as consultancy and project management services to name a few. The final, and arguably most important point, is that PBA still has a small team culture which allows a personal touch to our service.

# Digby Campbell – Project Management in the Waitaki Valley

Canterbury Engineering Graduate Digby Campbell has been working with PBA since December of 2010. The last two years have been a rapid progression for Digby; from university graduate to Project Manager for PBA in the Waitaki Valley, he has taken each successive challenge in his stride showing confidence and capability.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering late in 2010, Digby has since capitalised on PBA's culture of autonomy, flexibility and innovation. Initially working on internal business systems and certifications, beginning to assist technicians out in the field testing and commissioning, periodically spending time in the workshop overhauling circuit breakers and more recently assisting with Project Management at Benmore and Tokaanu power stations, Digby has now settled into the role of Waitaki Valley Project Manager. This role's responsibilities see him managing staff and coordinating work activities for PBA's teams in the lower South Island. In the spirit of diversity, Digby still has plenty of opportunity for field work on occasion too. Digby's enthusiastic and innovative character, combined with strong technical understanding have him performing very well in this new role. PBA are excited to



Digby Campbell.

provide staff members' professional and personal development opportunities within the HV industry.

## PBA staff attend HVDC Pole I Decommissioning Ceremony

**On Wednesday the 1st of August 2012, 47 years after first being put into service, New Zealand's HVDC Pole I system was finally decommissioned in a ceremony held simultaneously at Haywards and Benmore substations.**

It was history in the making since New Zealand's Pole I HVDC transmission network was the last Mercury Arc Valve converter station in the world still operating.

This was a pivotal moment for PBA employees Ray Parris and Darren Horton, who between them have provided over 60 years service to New Zealand's HVDC system. Other long serving members of the Pole I maintenance and project teams, and key Transpower staff gathered in the valve halls at Haywards and Benmore for the ceremony.

## PBA Enters Fifth Year of Operation

On the 12th December 2012, Pringle Beleski and Associates Limited will enter its fifth year of operation. Over the last 5 years the company has matured to become one of New Zealand's leading High Voltage organisations and an employer of choice within the industry. These were two of the goals PBA's founders included in the business vision statement 5 years ago and it is with great pride we can say we have achieved them. This growth and success would not have been possible without the support of our clients, our sub-contractors and most importantly; everyone who makes up the PBA team including employee's families - thank you all.

With several bases of operation from the Waitaki Valley to Auckland and mobile workshops to shift to and from project sites, PBA is looking towards a bright future in New Zealand. With this in mind, attention is now beginning to turn to the growing volume of services PBA staff are supplying in Australia and the exciting challenges of becoming an Australasian wide organisation. With the business continuing to develop at a great rate, we all look forward to another exciting 5 years of challenges and successes.

# PBA Soccer Team



Early in August a round robin style soccer tournament was arranged between PBA, Wellington Electricity and the Raumati Social Club. The inaugural competition was run on a sunny Wellington day and was a great success. As a result, the plan is to make this an annual event. Above is a picture of the PBA soccer team after playing Wellington Electricity. The match was closely fought with PBA winning 1-0. The games were all played in very good spirit with pride and a winners cup to play for.

---

## Project Management software trial progressing well

**Since formation PBA have executed several projects using the NEC contractual frameworks. As part of our Quality Management System we review these larger projects to identify any lessons learned, areas for improvement and any things that went particularly well.**

In conducting this review process, PBA identified an opportunity for ourselves and our clients to more effectively and efficiently manage these contracts. Some investigation was conducted into various options and discussions held with clients to understand each party's needs and a shared Project Management interface was identified as an opportunity for improvement. PBA decided upon a software package; "Project Control" by Conject which has been specifically designed for NEC contracts.

This software package provides a set of rules and frameworks for managing all project management activities between the client and contractor involved in an NEC contract. At project

start, the specifics of the contract are set up and the necessary team members are given access to the online tool. This is the biggest strength of the software: it will function in the exact way the contract specifies it should be run and both parties to the contract use the same forum to collaboratively manage the contract execution. Another key benefit of using this software is the provision of an auditable trail and breakdown of the lines of communications and responses. Each person involved can see how they are performing in terms of responding to necessary issues according to the contract specifications.

After receiving training from the UK based software developers, PBA trained our clients Project Managers and collectively a framework was set up to begin managing an ongoing contract. The response has been positive prompting integration of the software into PBA's existing project management systems.