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PBA celebrates a successful five years

The PBA group formed on March 23rd 2009. The organisation was born out of a shared desire to develop and retain technical expertise within the New Zealand high voltage industry and to deliver only the highest standard of specialist technical services.

Having grown from the original 12 founding members to a dedicated team of 44 full time employees and having opened two more branches in the Waitaki Valley and Auckland; PBA's first five years have passed very quickly. This has been the perfect milestone for us to all pause briefly and reflect on where the organisation has come from, who we are now and where we're heading. This reflection and celebration took place at the PBA Safety Summit with all PBA's staff, senior management and the Board of Directors in attendance.

The determination and commitment of PBA's founding members received acknowledgement through the presentation of personalised commemorative pieces of silverware. This was a great chance for some of PBA's newer employees to hear the story of the business's formation and the hard won inroads continuing

to be carved into the industry by those who share the PBA vision. This was also a good moment to pause and express gratitude to the founding members; the wider staff group; their partners and families; and the clients and stakeholders throughout the industry who have supported PBA; thank you.

PBA has grown larger and faster than any of the founding members originally anticipated and this is exciting proof the model of delivering uncompromising specialist services remains a sound premise to continue to build and grow this business on. As for where PBA is headed? Well, just watch this space...

Another Iconic Power Generation Site to be upgraded by PBA



Meridian Energy's iconic underground 700MW Manapouri Power Station was constructed in the middle of a mountain in the Fiordland National Park between 1964 and 1971, and has been reliably supplying hydroelectric power to the bottom of the South Island ever since. After all these years it's time for a major upgrade of the ventilation system and the associated controls with automated, remote, control systems. Meridian's tender called for contractors to complete design works and to replace the existing system.

E-Type Engineering were awarded the head contract with Meridian

and PBA were subsequently awarded an NEC Subcontract to complete electrical control and indication works. This includes designing and building the motor control centre and PLCs and then programming of all PLC based automation components. Meridian, E-Type Engineering and PBA are all utilising the Conject contract management software application for this project.

PBA is proud to be partnering with E-Type Engineering and Meridian in this major contract to upgrade another New Zealand power industry icon.

PBA Extended Factory Training at WTC

In October of 2013 two PBA transformer experts travelled to Melbourne, Australia, to spend a week at Wilson Transformer Company (WTC) to receive extended transformer assembly training in the factory. PBA had already installed several WTC transformers for various clients around New Zealand. This extended training was initiated with a view to create a long standing and constructive relationship between PBA's technical specialists and WTC. The visit to the WTC factory was enlightening for the PBA staff who were able to inspect and discuss the various assembly and testing areas of the factory, and the finer points of taking delivery and assembling the transformers. This extended training was arranged prior to the supply and installation of two transformers for Genesis Energy at their Huntly Power Station early in 2014, which went very smoothly without any issues. Based on the way in which both organisations have worked together, WTC feel very confident to use PBA staff on future installations of WTC transformers.



EPECentre Conference - Careers at PBA

The EPECentre is New Zealand's first centre of excellence in Electric Power Engineering and is hosted within the College of Engineering at the University of Canterbury. The foundation has more recently developed a strong research capability. As a result, the EPECentre is New Zealand's Centre of Research Excellence for electric power engineering.

Its core areas of operation are education, research and industry interaction. PBA, as an EPECentre partner, was invited to showcase our training and career opportunities at the 2014 careers convention held at the Canterbury University campus. This convention is an opportunity for Electrical, Civil and Mechanical Engineering students to inform themselves about New Zealand's power industry as a career option and to network with potential employers. This event included talks by industry's senior managers and graduate engineers and panel sessions during which delegates answered questions.

PBA Technical Specialist Rowan Sinton delivered a presentation at this conference. Rowan described his own experiences with PBA and the career pathway provided to him. As New Zealand's benchmark contractor for in-house development of technical expertise, PBA represents an exciting choice for engineering graduates who are eager to pursue a career in a dynamic industry.



John Pringle, Rowan Sinton and Mike McLay represent PBA at the EPECentre

PBA mountain biking trip - fitness for work

In October 2013 PBA conducted the annual health surveys of all employees. This is a companywide initiative and a demonstration of PBA's commitment to staff wellbeing. After reviewing their results, a dedicated team from PBA's Wellington branch decided to see what sort of collective statistics a weekend of exercise could produce. Mountain biking was quickly chosen as the preferred format and Rotorua's world class Whakarewarewa Forest the venue.

Over two days of riding the team clocked up a combined total 402 km or, roughly, 25,000 burned calories. The PBA staff involved are grateful for PBA's support in this venture and for providing the impetus for continual improvement both in work and their personal lives.



PBA Summit



The 21st of March saw the third annual PBA Safety Summit held at the Miramar Links Golf Course in Wellington. The Summit was attended by all PBA staff and four of PBA's Directors. The Summit allowed Directors an opportunity to express their commitment to the health and safety of all PBA employees and communicate their strategic vision for PBA's future. Their commitment has been demonstrated by undertaking a site visit to conduct their own worksite audit of a PBA job and by a statement by the Directors added to PBA's safety, environmental and quality policies. Nine presentations were given by staff members on topics related to

health and safety issues arising during the previous year and two presentations on PBA's systems and processes.

The Summit presents an additional method for all staff to raise and discuss health and safety issues with management and to ask any questions they might have. Congratulations to Dave Kitching who won a gift voucher in the draw from last years submitted hazard observations. At the end of the Summit those staff involved in the formation of the company were presented with a gift to celebrate five years since the formation of PBA.

Safe as Houses with Mike Mackenzie

Mike Mackenzie started with PBA in November 2010 after making contact through the company's website. Originally starting employment with PBA as a draughtsman, Mike quickly gravitated toward improving PBA's quality, environmental and safety management systems. Mike took a leading role in guiding PBA through to gaining approved contractor status with Rio Tinto and establishing a safety management system which was subsequently certified to AS/NZ: 4801. One outcome from the Rio Tinto contractor approval process was the introduction of health and safety representatives to PBA's various bases. After these successes, and with the business growing rapidly in staff numbers, Mike was made Health and Safety Manager. To increase his health and safety knowledge and guide process and policy within PBA, Mike has been working towards attaining his National Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety and recently completed Health and Safety Representative Level 4.

Mike's most recent success has been a three day audit conducted



by Telarc SAI. Two Telarc auditors visited PBA's head office in Wellington and conducted an audit of PBA's quality, safety and environmental management systems. Upon conclusion of the three day audit no non-conformances, no areas of concern and only seven opportunities for improvement were noted. This is an outstanding outcome from such rigorous and independent scrutiny. Congratulations to Mike and the PBA team on this fantastic result!