

PBA NEWS

PBA News Issue 6 July 2013

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New PBA Website

During the organisation's humble beginnings PBA set up a website for the purpose of presenting a simple company statement and to provide PBA team members a single point of access to online business management tools.

It's fair to say that after 5 years trading and an ever increasing workforce and complexity of operation; a replacement website had become long overdue.

The new PBA web site provides a detailed breakdown of PBA's core specialist service groups including SF6; Transformers; Cables; Secondary Systems; Circuit Breakers and HVDC technology. The website is also a living beast with updates and additions able to be made by PBA staff as the business develops and news comes to light.

The unique element of this new website is the blog posting capability which allows PBA staff to post articles associated with a variety of categories. Two characteristics of this website which have already received positive feedback from staff and external stakeholders are that it is dynamic and ever evolving and that it is a self managed tool; two qualities which also underpin the PBA organisation and our culture.

You can visit our new website at: www.pbanz.com

Wellington Office

41A Raiha Street
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

Auckland Office

12/180 Montgomerie Rd,
Airport Oaks, Auckland
Phone: 09 275 5765

Otematata Office

2728 Otematata-Kurow Rd,
Otematata, Otago
Phone: 03 344 2972

The screenshot displays the PBA website homepage. At the top left is the PBA logo with the tagline 'THE HIGH VOLTAGE EXPERTS'. To the right is a red banner with the slogan 'It's the way we're wired' and a search bar. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for HOME, THE EXPERTS, PROJECT SOLUTIONS, SPECIALIST SERVICES, SUPPORT SOLUTIONS, CREDENTIALS, NEWS, ABOUT, and CONTACT. The main content area is divided into several sections: a 'Welcome' message, a 'Specialist services' section with an image of workers, a 'A team that cares' section with an image of three staff members, and a 'Total commitment to excellence' section with an image of a target. On the right side, there are three news items: 'PBA achieves ISO 9001 certification', 'PBA achieves AS/NZS 4801 certification', and 'PBA achieves ISO 14001 certification'. The background of the website features images of high-voltage electrical equipment and workers in safety gear.

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New Building for PBA's Wellington Team

Growth continues at PBA with the Wellington based workforce outgrowing their operating base of the last 4 years. The original two storied office building has served the group well but became over-crowded for both personnel and equipment and so an office and work shop space was sought.

In April the Wellington group moved into a new building which provides much more office area upstairs in an open plan format with a separate meeting room and a large drive in / drive out workshop space on the ground floor. On top of all these features

is plenty of parking for staff and visitors.

This move is an exciting indication of progress not only in the Wellington region but the North Island in general with the new cables specialists immediately putting the new workshop space to good use. This new building, workshop and storage space, provides an excellent base of operations for servicing PBA's lower North Island project work load as well as allowing office staff to spread out across a shared area to support the collaborative culture and team atmosphere.



Auckland Base Established and the Penrose SVC Project Is Underway

Siemens are the electrical design and installation contractor for Transpower's Static VAR Compensation (SVC) project at Penrose in Auckland.

Late in 2012 PBA won the contract with Siemens to become their electrical and mechanical installation contractor for this project. By New Zealand industry standards this is a large power factor correction project taking in a variety of technologies and providing a good challenge to PBA. In preparation for the project and ongoing work in the north of the North Island PBA

has established an office building with workshop space nearby from which we plan to service our SF6 contract as well as resource the Penrose SVC project. Three new fulltime staff members have begun work with PBA in Auckland and are using this workshop and office as their base of operations. This is an exciting expansion for PBA with permanent bases of operation now established in New Zealand's three largest cities allowing greater flexibility and efficiency.

Meridian Wind Farm Work

The establishment of high voltage cable jointing expertise within PBA has added a new discipline to PBA's suite of client services.

Condition assessment and ongoing asset management is an area PBA is passionate about with the attitude that detection and prevention is the best strategy for maintaining assets in an operational state over a longer term.

It is exciting to be working with Meridian Energy at their West-Wind generation site in this capacity with our high voltage cable experts conducting regular inspections and reporting back to Meridian's asset managers with recommendations.

It is positive to see the relationship between PBA and Meridian extend from the South to the North Island and from the usual HV switchgear and transformer areas to high voltage cable works.

Unison Protection Upgrade Projects

The addition of cables and distribution specialists to PBA's team has further expanded the range of service offerings.

Unison Contracting Services in the Hawke's Bay were quick to capitalise on this and engaged PBA to execute several transformer and lines protection upgrade projects and a VT installation at various locations throughout their network. The first four of these projects have been completed at Camberley, Mahora, Marewa and Irongate zone substations. There have been several challenges in carrying out these first four projects which Unison and the PBA team have collaborated on to overcome.

Unison Project Manager Matt Kennedy had this to say about dealing with PBA when the unexpected problems arose:

"The PBA team were proactive and worked well with the Unison staff to resolve the issues. I was pleased with the team's initiative and work ethic in completing these projects on schedule".

With these first four projects executed successfully Unison have awarded PBA another 5 similar projects planned for execution in July.



Samoan Hospital Electrical Supply Projects

Business boundaries are continually being expanded by the PBA team and this continues with a small group of PBA's specialists travelling to Samoa to test and commission some 11kV switchgear at the capital city's hospital.

The project had a slow start with the guys becoming stranded at Auckland international airport while tropical cyclone Evan wreaked havoc on the small island nation. As soon as the cyclone was over the PBA team forged ahead with their job. This involved

transporting test gear and then testing and commissioning the feeder protection at the hospital site for the hospital's two incoming electrical supplies. With the automated change over protection set up and commissioned it was off to Fiaga power station. PBA's technical specialists provided training to the local crews in the preparation and use of exothermic welds, so the local construction team could press ahead with their own earth-grid project at Upolu Island's major diesel powered generation station.

Engineering Support Services contract with Meridian

Meridian Energy and PBA are continuing to foster a business relationship proving beneficial to both parties. The new master agreement establishes terms and conditions for the periodic engagement of PBA by Meridian to provide engineering support services through a simple task order process. As part of the work required getting this contract in place PBA underwent Meridian's pre-qualification process which involved an assessment of PBA's compliance with industry best practice in safety, quality and environmental management.

This contract covers specialist engineering services being provided on an as required basis. The establishment of the agreement is underpinned by a collaborative approach and openness of communication during the management of projects and condition assessment programmes at various Meridian generation sites. Meridian Energy has been a long term client of PBA's from our humble beginnings through to now signing this Engineering Support Services agreement. The PBA team are looking forward to continuing work with Meridian under this new arrangement.

PBA's First Apprentice is now a Tradesman

Back in June 2010 the PBA news ran an article about employing Thomas Wech and his subsequent entry into an apprenticeship training agreement.

At the time this was history in the making with Tom the first PBA employee to be formally entered into PBA supported training toward a formal qualification. Two and a half years later Tom has now completed all his work experience and passed his regulatory exam making him a registered electrician and the first employee to start and finish an apprenticeship with PBA support. To give this occasion some context; PBA was a business of only 17 full time staff when Tom came on board and with only two completed projects at that time continuing growth was not assured by any stretch. The geographic challenge PBA's diverse project workload presents has

seen Tom working all over the country for extended periods on a wide range of projects and he has taken these challenges in his stride. Tom has worked alongside the best technical expertise in the New Zealand industry for long hours in harsh environments on physically and technically demanding jobs. These challenges seem to bring out the best in Tom and he has flourished into a mature and responsible tradesman. At the time of writing PBA has 55 staff 8 of whom are undertaking workplace training toward various qualifications – this is over 14% of the organisation's work force.

PBA was established with a goal to train and retain expertise in the New Zealand industry and Tom's progress is proof this vision is being realised – something he and PBA can be proud of.

Peter Rue - A Man of Many Talents

The latest recruit to the PBA team is Technical Specialist Peter Rue. Peter, a recent electrical and electronic engineering graduate from the University of Canterbury has over five year's experience in the New Zealand power industry.

Peter's expertise with current transformers has seen him awarded an opportunity to present a paper at the Sydney EEA conference in June. The topic Peter will be presenting is "An overview of the Anti-Remanance current transformers". In this paper, Peter gives an overview of the basic fundamentals of magnetism, current transformers and the anti-remanance transformer, its applications and future uses.

In his spare time Peter has secured funding to deliver his pet project "Project XMAS" to 160 students in Christchurch, 60 students in Auckland and 40 students in Wellington. In this project, selected students are donated a Christmas tree kit set with the help of an engineering mentor to put the kit together which then can be connected via a USB and programmed to do anything they want. Peter is volunteering his time on behalf of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Peter's passion for electrical engineering continues; he has been invited on to The Reefton Hydro Restoration Project. Reefton was the southern hemispheres first reticulated power supply and



is currently being restored to its former glory. Peter's involvement with the project has him redesigning the 1935 power house with the 1930's era equipment.

PBA is proud to have a young man of such diverse talents and enthusiasms join our team and look forward to providing Peter a work environment where autonomy and a passion for personal advancement is strongly supported.