

Connections

Marlborough
Lines

Marlborough Lines Newsletter • Summer 2013

Headlines

Let the good times roll

The Picton and Blenheim Christmas parades were held in early December, and the usual crowds of smiling children and adults lined the streets to watch the festive floats and bring Christmas cheer, which makes the parades the success they are.

A lot of time and effort goes into the parades by both the organisers and those entering floats, and

it's great to see our communities turning out to support and enjoy these events.

Marlborough Lines was pleased to continue our tradition of providing the Santa float, which we hope to do for many years to come.



Photo: The Marlborough Express (marlexpress.co.nz).

Payment from the Marlborough Electric Power Trust

Look out for a payment on your electricity account in time for Christmas!

During November the Marlborough Electric Power Trust made a tax-free capital distribution through your electricity retailer to all those connected to the Marlborough electricity network.

The Marlborough Electric Power Trust has determined that the payment will be allocated on the basis of \$50 to every network connection and this amount will be credited to your electricity account in December.



In this issue

- Let the good times roll
- Payment from MEPT
- We're committed to you
- Is your caravan safe?
- Keeping an eye on the overheads
- Substations win landscaping award
- Leeds Quay
- Safety message
- Tertiary study awards 2013
- Adding value to Marlborough
- A spectacle of colour
- Christmas office hours



Best holiday wishes!

On behalf of us all at Marlborough Lines, we wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

We're committed to you

Our commitment to maintain the reliability of your electricity supply is ongoing.



Our intent is to eliminate faults before they occur wherever possible.

This means that we must seek to ensure all trees are kept clear from the electricity network and that we undertake the necessary investment in maintenance and capital expenditure. Old lines and suspect components have to be replaced and where appropriate additional capacity installed, i.e. new or larger transformers and heavier lines to meet customer demand.

Where practical new tie lines have been constructed to provide alternative routes for the delivery of electricity. And we have built six major 33/11kV low noise zone substations in the Blenheim and Picton areas.

In recent years we have installed a number of remotely operated circuit breakers which enable us to undertake switching from our Blenheim control room. Last year we installed 25 remotely operated circuit breakers and over the last few months we have installed a further five on the East Coast alone.

Over the last five years we have invested some \$65m in capital expenditure and spent \$32m on maintenance over the same period.

Regrettably, sometimes when we undertake our work it is necessary to switch off your electricity supply. You can be assured our objective is to keep all outages to an absolute minimum. Hence you will only experience outages when we cannot undertake the work while the lines are live or our mobile generators cannot be used.

We apologise if you have been affected by scheduled outages but these events only occur when absolutely necessary.

Notwithstanding the unusual earthquake and extreme storm events we experienced earlier in the year, good progress is being made in improving the reliability of our supply. Our commitment is ongoing in this regard.

Is your caravan safe?

With the holiday season nearing we recommend caravan owners obtain an electrical warrant of fitness – or if you have previously obtained a warrant, check that it's up to date before connecting to electricity.

Connection to caravans must always be via proper caravan plugs with appropriate earthing protection. Please note that supply via the usual 10amp flat three pin plugs is illegal and dangerous and fatalities have occurred where people have used this method of connection.



Keeping an eye on the overheads

One of the most common reasons for the loss of electricity supply is interference by trees in overhead lines.

Aside from causing disruption to supply, in some instances interference from trees can cause fires.

We have in excess of 3,300km of lines in Marlborough. We patrol them regularly so that we can ideally locate potential faults before they occur.

The 415/240 volt lines connecting your installation to our network are known as service mains and it is your responsibility to ensure trees and vegetation do not interfere with the service line above your property.

But please do not take risks should you decide to undertake the work yourself. Your service main can be disconnected and made safe whilst tree trimming work is undertaken.

We continue to see instances where inexperienced people cutting trees near power lines cause trees or branches to fall across the lines creating danger to themselves and causing damage for which they ultimately pay.

If you require advice regarding the cutting of trees near power lines please don't hesitate to give us a call or talk to a contractor who is qualified to cut trees in the vicinity of power lines.

Please help us to help you.
If you know of trees that are causing interference or have the potential to cause interference with an electricity line please give us a call on 03 577 7007.

Your safety is paramount to us.



Environment

Substations win landscaping award



In November we were pleasantly surprised to be nominated and then awarded the 'Best Commercial Garden Frontage for 2013' by the Committee of Nelmac Garden Marlborough.

The award was for the landscaping we have undertaken at our Waters Substation in Redwood Street and our Springlands and Nelson Street substations.

The positive feedback we receive from the community reinforces our commitment to minimise the impact of our infrastructure in urban areas through landscaping.

Leeds Quay

Work is progressing to develop the area in Leeds Quay where we recently removed part of the building which was an earthquake risk.

The landscaped area will be for public use and will include grass, plants, seating and a pathway linking down to the river. The Marlborough District Council has been consulted throughout this project, and will assist by providing steps linking the path down to the river.

We intend that the area be an attractive feature which will also commemorate the 90th anniversary of Marlborough Lines' predecessor.

The landscaping project is scheduled for completion early in 2014.



Safety message

Yachties, look up!

Unaware yachties can be at risk of contacting power lines with masts and rigging. Please consider the height of your mast relative to power lines.

Sadly there have been instances in New Zealand where people have forgotten with tragic consequences.

Please stay safe and have an enjoyable summer.

Working near the overhead service to your house

Painting, water-blasting, tree trimming, erection of scaffolding and repairs to roofing or spouting can be dangerous if carried out close to overhead service lines. In the interests of safety we recommend you arrange for the power to be disconnected while working close to the overhead service lines.

If you require a Temporary Safety Disconnection, contact us and we'll organise it for you. Provided this can be undertaken by staff working on other nearby jobs during normal working hours, there will be no charge. We need at least 48 hours notice. The more notice provided, the more likely the work will be undertaken when it best suits you.

If you're located in a remote area and require a special trip for the disconnection/reconnection, you will be charged for our costs for travelling to and from your location, and while waiting for your work to be done (if required). The actual disconnection/reconnection will be done at no charge.

Christmas office hours

Marlborough Lines' offices at Alfred Street and Taylor Pass will be closed from 25–27 December and 1–3 January.

Otherwise we will be open as usual during the holiday period.

Our 24 hour fault service is available 7 days a week, 365 days a year, by calling 03 577 7007.

Community

Tertiary study awards 2013

On 13 December we presented tertiary study award scholarships to recipients selected by Marlborough Girls' College, Marlborough Boys' College, Queen Charlotte College and Rai Valley Area School. The total amount awarded was \$24,000. The Awards

were established in 1991 and over the period (including this year) over 200 students have received scholarships, and many have gained distinction in various fields of study and in their chosen professions.

This year's recipients are:

NAME	COLLEGE	STUDY
Hamish Hayes	Marlborough Boys' College – Dux	Bachelor of Engineering at Canterbury University
Ashton Blake-Barlow	Marlborough Boys' College – Proxime Accessit	Bachelor of Health Sciences at Otago University
Nerys Udy	Marlborough Girls' College – Dux	Performing Arts at Oxford or Cambridge University
Danielle Pope	Marlborough Girls' College – Proxime Accessit	Degree in Health Science at Otago University
Muske Hertoghs	Queen Charlotte College – Dux	English, History or Classics at Victoria University
Moana Dixon	Queen Charlotte College – Proxime Accessit	English Literature at Victoria University
Robert Blankendaal	Rai Valley Area School	Chef course at NMIT in Nelson

Congratulations to this year's recipients and best wishes for your future studies and careers.

Adding value to Marlborough

The winners of the 2013 Westpac Marlborough Chamber of Commerce Business Awards were announced at a gala dinner held in November. It was also an opportunity to recognise the achievements of all businesses involved in the awards.

Marlborough Lines sponsored the 'Adding Value to Marlborough' award, which was won by Southern Water Engineering – who walked away with a total of four awards, including the Supreme Award.

We're proud to sponsor these awards which showcase Marlborough's business talent and capability and provide a way to acknowledge those building our economy and community.



Southern Water Engineering owners Nicci Leitch and Stephen Leitch. Photo: Richard Briggs.

A spectacle of colour

The decorative lighting at Blenheim's Pollard Park was switched on in early November and will remain on until the end of summer. Marlborough Lines installed the lights in 2003 in recognition of our 80th anniversary and we have continued to maintain and upgrade the lights since then.

The lights provide an after dark spectacle of colour and have proved a popular attraction for locals and visitors to the region.

Early next year we will continue to assist Marlborough's annual summer events including the iconic Wine & Food Festival on 8 February, with the provision of power supplies and technical support.

As part of the community we're proud to do all we can to help Marlborough thrive.