

# CONNECTIONS

AUTUMN 2018



## Investment success distributed

The success of Marlborough Lines' investments in Nelson Electricity and Yealands Wine Group has enabled the payment of a dividend to the Marlborough Electric Power Trust last year.

Because the beneficiaries of the Trust are the electricity consumers connected to the Marlborough Lines Network, the Trust has recently distributed the amount of \$180 to every consumer by way of a discount on their electricity account. This distribution by the Trust was an increase of \$30 on the amount of \$150 paid the previous year.

The financial benefit from Marlborough Lines' investments is expected to be paid annually and as the investments grow it is intended that this amount increase.

The funds utilised for the purchase of Yealands Wine Group were achieved from the gains made in the sale of the Company's previous investments in the electricity sector in Otago and the Eastern Bay of Plenty and these investments were also made at no cost to the electricity consumers of Marlborough.

Going forward it is our intention to consider and, when appropriate, undertake further investment with the objective of increasing the financial benefits to those connected to the Marlborough electricity Network.

## And your discount has been paid

**In March discounts totalling \$9.4m (including GST) were paid by Marlborough Lines to electricity retailers to provide a discount on your electricity account.**

This discount applies to all consumers connected to the Marlborough Lines Network excluding those in uneconomic areas.

The discount paid to a typical domestic consumer (as defined by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) was \$226.

Since 1999 a total of \$131m (including GST) has been paid to Marlborough's electricity consumers.



**\$180** TRUST  
DISTRIBUTION TO  
EVERY CONSUMER

**\$226** DISCOUNT PAID TO A  
TYPICAL DOMESTIC  
CONSUMER



## Ownership of Marlborough Lines

**Sometimes we are asked as to the background of Marlborough Lines so we thought it would be helpful to provide this explanation.**

Marlborough Lines has succeeded Marlborough Electric and originally the former Marlborough Electric Power Board, which was established in 1923 to provide an electricity supply to the people of Marlborough.

The Power Board was corporatised in 1993 when it became a company and then traded as Marlborough Electric. Then subsequent to Government electricity industry reform which required the Company to sell its generation and retailing businesses, Marlborough Electric became Marlborough Lines in 1999.

The Marlborough Electric Power Trust was formed at that time to hold the shares of the Company on behalf of

the consumers of the day connected to the Marlborough Lines network. This means the consumers on any given day both now and in the future. For that reason current and future consumers need to be considered in all decisions of the Marlborough Electric Power Trust.

The Trustees of the Marlborough Electric Power Trust are elected by the consumers. In turn the Trustees appoint the Directors of Marlborough Lines, approve the Company's Statement of Corporate Intent, and receive dividends from the Company's investments and accordingly make distributions to electricity consumers.

Marlborough Lines itself owns and operates Marlborough's electricity network and distributes electricity from the national grid at Transpower's Blenheim substation to your premises. Our Network supplies some particularly remote areas including

the Molesworth, D'Urville Island, Forsyth Island, Arapawa Island and the outer Marlborough Sounds.

Some of our lines and customers can only be reached by helicopter or boat or on foot.

The majority of our customers are in the Blenheim and Picton areas and the lower Awatere and Wairau Valleys.

We are prohibited by law from selling electricity. Alternatively we pay Transpower for the transmission of your electricity over the national grid and charge your retailer for the delivery of your electricity from the Transpower point of supply to your premises.

We endeavour to provide you with electricity on a 24 hour basis, 365 days a year. If there are any problems with your electricity supply at any time please do not hesitate to give us a call.





## Service lines

Property owners are responsible for the power line from the point of supply, which is normally where the line crosses the boundary of the property, to the point of connection to the installation.

This is typically known as the service line. However in some areas, especially in rural areas, the point of entry to a property may not be clearly apparent.

Overhead service lines may extend over several poles on a property before they connect to our Network.

If you are not sure which portion of the power line is your responsibility please contact us.

It is recommended that property owners carry out periodic visual checks to ensure that the lines, and poles supporting the lines on their property, are in good order. Checks should include determining that lines are not likely to be subject to interference by trees. We can undertake inspections as required.

Where service lines cross over buildings or roofs care needs to be taken to prevent direct contact. Please ensure there are no opportunities for children to climb trees or other objects and make contact with service lines.

Ideally any overhead service line should be replaced with underground cable especially where there is a risk that they might be contacted by any activity, plant or equipment. This is particularly so in relation to vineyards and farm properties.

## Trees and power lines

Trees and vegetation management continue to be an ongoing issue for us and if you can assist us in identifying any trees which are interfering, or have the potential to interfere with a power line please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Trees interfering with power lines can cause flicking of lights but in more severe cases can result in broken lines, loss of electricity supply and unfortunately fire.

Should you be aware of any trees which you consider are a potential hazard please contact us on our 24 hour fault line **(03) 577 7007**.



## Painting near power lines

If you are about to paint your house or any other buildings and power lines are in the vicinity please do not take any unnecessary risks.

Please contact us to arrange for your electricity supply to be isolated so that live lines are not a danger.

Regrettably on occasions the danger of painting in the vicinity of live lines has been overlooked and there have been tragic consequences as a result.

## Low power lines

If you come across an accident where power lines are in close proximity to the ground or are on the ground please treat them as live. Power lines that appear to be dead can be live or automatically re-livened at any time. Making contact with the lines or even standing on the ground in close proximity to lines on the ground can result in electrocution.

We are available and attend emergencies on a 24 hour basis.

## The safety of our Network

Within Marlborough Lines we undertake regular surveillance of our Network assets to ensure that all parts of it are safe. But if at any time you see any damage to any line, cable box or any part of our electricity system please do not hesitate to give us a call.

## Digging

If you are digging please give consideration to the possibility of electric cables in the vicinity. Similarly if you are driving metal stakes into the ground please consider the proximity of underground cables.

If you are unsure where cables are installed please let us know and we can locate them for you.

## Using appliances or extension cords outside

When using appliances or extension cords outside please use an isolating transformer or an earth leakage protection device if such is not provided within your installation at the switchboard. The chance of electrocution is not worth the risk.

## Reduce your electricity account

**In recent years substantial gains have been made in the efficiency of lighting.**

Compact fluorescents and LEDs are much more efficient than the old incandescent bulbs.

Did you know that a compact fluorescent lamp only uses approximately 20% of the electricity of an incandescent lamp to produce the same light. And if a compact fluorescent is "warm white" the colour of the light is virtually the same as that from an incandescent.



Accordingly changing all your lighting to compact fluorescents can reduce your lighting costs by approximately 80%. Although compact fluorescents are more expensive than incandescent bulbs their life should be at least double that of an incandescent.

LEDs are even more efficient than compact fluorescents and can have a life in the vicinity of 50,000 hours although the cost of LEDs is typically more than compact fluorescents.

## Electric car

**Within New Zealand the number of electric cars in use is continuing to increase.**

Within our fleet we have a Nissan Leaf electric car and a number of people in Marlborough have taken the opportunity to test drive this vehicle.

Accordingly should you wish to try an electric vehicle please do not hesitate to give us a call.

We would not pretend that this vehicle will readily suit everyone's requirements. But for those who can operate within the limitations of the battery and its charging requirements, it offers motoring at a cost less than that of a conventional vehicle.



## Sponsorship

**In recent months we have sponsored the Marlborough Schools and Maori Tertiary Study Awards which have provided the opportunity for seven young students to undertake study relative to their chosen career.**

We have also sponsored the Blenheim and Picton Christmas Parades and been a sponsor of the Picton Maritime Festival, the Marlborough Wine and Food Festival and the Havelock Mussel Festival.

Marlborough Lines is an integral part of Marlborough and is proud to assist the Marlborough community.

The Marlborough Lines Stadium 2000 is a further example of the Company's sponsorship of a facility which is used on a daily basis by young and old from all walks of life.



## Always at your service

**Our fault service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

Any problems with your electricity supply please call us on **(03) 577 7007**.

Otherwise our office is open 7.30am to 5pm weekdays.

Our website: **[www.marlboroughlines.co.nz](http://www.marlboroughlines.co.nz)** also provides information in relation to a range of issues relative to the electricity Network and Marlborough Lines.