

Profile on Tony Silke

Tony started in the New Zealand State Hydro Electric Department in 1954 as a hydro-electric apprentice in Nelson District. This trade background was a good base for his later career in maintenance and operating of power stations and substations.

He commenced his substation maintenance at Kikiwa Substation, the Northernmost 220kV substation in the South Island. He then changed his interest to substation operating at Kikiwa which gave him a good grounding in high-voltage operating.

Tony then promoted through operating in various hydro-electric power stations including Waipapa, Roxburgh and Cobb. He was then promoted to Senior Substation Operator at Haywards, the North Island end of the Inter-Island HVDC Link. This move was in the 60s when the HVDC was new and was rather troublesome technology in its early years.

From Haywards Tony promoted to System Operator at the South Island System Control Centre at Islington in Christchurch. In those pre-electricity market days System Control managed both the high-voltage South Island electricity transmission system, plus the complex hydraulics of the South Island lakes and power stations. System Control was a specialised career in itself and Tony promoted through various South Island positions.

Transpower decided to integrate the North Island and South Island Control Centres into one management structure and Tony took on the position of manager of both Islington and Hamilton centres.

This position was then combined with the Wellington System Control Group and Tony was appointed Power System Services Manager in Transpower in Wellington. This time coincided with the introduction of the first stages of the introduction of the New Zealand Electricity Market.

Tony's academic qualifications include a Degree in Sociology which he gained as a mature student.

More recently Tony has worked as a Risk Management Consultant for Transpower and has lately worked solely on the setting up and running of GridHeritage.