

Youngest ever line mechanic

When he left school Josh Batchelor was quick to apply for an apprenticeship opportunity which enabled him to stay in the small, remote township of Harihari on the West Coast of the South Island where he was born.

Aged just 16, he joined ElectroNet Services as its youngest trainee line mechanic in July 2006. And according to workmates, from the outset was an energetic and keen team member, completing his apprenticeship at an impressive rate.

In 2008, Josh became the youngest person ever to receive his Line Mechanic Distribution Level 4 Certificate from ESITO and he registered as a Line Mechanic in September 2008.

ElectroNet Services Chief Executive Rob Caldwell says very early in his training, Josh showed he had the maturity and drive to gain his qualification and start his career as a line mechanic.

"He is very well thought of throughout the workforce and is the type of young guy that any employer is very pleased to have as part of the team."

Josh undertook his apprenticeship with a small group of linemen, but often travelled to Greymouth to work in larger gangs and gain exposure to a wider variety of work types.

The decision to take up the apprenticeship is one he doesn't regret.

"It was great to be able to do an apprenticeship and stay in my hometown of Harihari. Working with Steph Waterman and Kelly Glass was great. I gained lots of experience," says Josh.

A keen sportsman, Josh has represented the West Coast in a number of sports, including rugby and rugby league.



Josh Batchelor

