



## Heritage Happenings for December 2011

### Tony's Tales

Merry Christmas and hi again from the GridHeritage team.



Life has been pretty busy recently with our ongoing oral recording activities plus all of the general additions that keep coming to our collection.

### Updated Collection on our Website

Following our last trip to Bunnythorpe we have updated our PastPerfect database and a summary of the collection is available on our website.

[http://www.gridheritage.org.nz/b\\_tour.html](http://www.gridheritage.org.nz/b_tour.html)

This site gives a very brief look at our collection. If you want to know more about any item then please let us know.

### BNZ Collection

Les Davys and Tony recently had a delightful visit to the BNZ Museum in the new BNZ building in Waterloo Quay, opposite the Wellington Railway Station. It is well worth spending an hour there looking at some of their historic treasures. While they have some lovely historic assets we were most impressed by the way they displayed them in a social context. Their displays really take you back into the 'old days'.

<http://www.bnz.co.nz/about-us/history/bnz-museum>

They displayed many coins and notes but they were a bit mean with giving out samples.



BNZ bank manager's office

It is interesting to note that two Wellington historic displays of note, the BNZ and the Reserve Bank are both managed by financial institutions. Perhaps our banks are not so bad after all as they are among the few who are serious about collecting their history.



BNZ display of coins and notes

### Hobart Conference

Richard Donaldson and Tony recently attended the 16th Engineering Heritage Conference at the Wrest Point Conference Centre in Hobart. This was GridHeritage's second conference attendance and we presented a paper titled "Keeping the Small Collection Professional; or, for you alcohol savvy people "Collecting with a Penfold's Grange taste and a Foster's income". Feedback after the presentation was very positive, largely because our contribution was from one of the smaller collections.

Other presentations ranged from the restoration of a vintage tugboat to restoring what is probably the only 'stick shed' remaining in the world, a



## Heritage Happenings for December 2011

wheat storage building held up with wooden poles of up to 19 metres high. As always there were a number of presentations on bridges and heavy engineering. However the electricity industry in both New Zealand and Australia was well represented with delegates from both generation and transmission organisations.

### **Another trip to Bunnythorpe.**

From the AGM it became clear that members were interested in helping us to work on the collection when next we go to Bunnythorpe. It will be great to see some new faces involved in the work our collection as we can always use extras hands. It will also be nice to show off some of our treasures.

### **Islington Display**

GridHeritage has had an historic display in the Islington Regional Operating Centre for many years. There will soon be some rebuilding in the area and the display has been removed to safe storage in the substation. It is hoped to restore the display in some form in the future.

### **GridHeritage AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 30 November. We had a good turnout of loyal members and friends. The existing Chair and Committee were re-elected unopposed. They are, Chairman: Tony Silke. Deputy Chair: Richard Donaldson. Secretary: Les Davys. Treasurer: Brian Howard. Issues discussed were our ongoing problems with Bunnythorpe storage space and the future of a mercury-arc valve.

### **Doug Dell wattmeter**

GridHeritage is indebted to Coral Dell, John La Roche, Paul Blue, Bernard Palamountain and other members and friends who carefully packaged the

historic wattmeter and ensured that it was safely transported to Wellington.



The instrument was presented to Doug on his retirement. We plan to have it on public display in Wellington shortly.

### **A winter wedding**

Did you know that we have a newly-wed on our GridHeritage team? Megan Kerstens, nee Wallis is the blushing bride who chose to wed in Danseys Pass at the coldest time of the year. The Danseys Pass altitude is 610 metres.



The happy couple's clothes cover the gumboots that they are wearing.

To add to the weather difficulties, Peter, the groom, needed an emergency appendix operation just a few days prior to the big day.