

Tony's Tales

2012 is well upon us and for GridHeritage it has meant a lot of additions to our ever-growing collection, so much so that we now have to conserve space at Bunnythorpe. The shape of the new additions to the collection is fortunately changing. We are now getting less of the big bulky items and more documents and photos from people's personal collections. Keep it up!

Bob Howlett photos

Those who know Bob will remember that he was a keen photographer and has a fine collection of early photos. This is perhaps the best early Hamilton Control Centre photo that we now have in our collection.



Bill Sorenson at the North Island Control Centre.

The photo below is believed to be of NZED personnel. We would appreciate help in naming these people. If you require a larger picture I am happy to provide one on request.



NZED staff? Who are they?

Profile of a GridHeritage member

This is a new section that we want to try and if successful we will make it a regular feature.

Richard Donaldson is our first profile.

Richard is an Electrical Engineer who started work in Christchurch District working with such well known folk as Ian Fazackerley and Peter Dunn.

His early work included re-designing towers that had blown over and the design of the Addington bulk store. He then got the call to 'Head Office' where he was involved in Hydro Design. This included work on governors and excitation systems.

SCADA and things electronic led Richard to work with legends like Fred Swan and Doug Rowe and he became involved in setting standards for SCADA systems.

He then progressed to being Principal Design Engineer, Transmission.

From here he was back towards IT and was involved in setting up the huge mainframe computer system at Paraparaumu which later got the chop. He then moved to NZ Railways and to National Library, still involved in computers.

Y2K lured him back to Transpower where he became the Project Millennium Technical Director. He now consults to Transpower on a variety of IT work.

Richard has been closely involved in GridHeritage since it was established in 2002. He is our Deputy Chair.

He believes that GridHeritage is working now to provide information and historic assets that people undertaking research in the future may want. With support from Transpower, GridHeritage has a stable ownership structure and is building a leading collection of artefacts, documents and oral recordings. Richard appears in our



Heritage Happenings for February 2012

photo of the GridHeritage team working in Bunnythorpe on this page.

GridHeritage visit to Bunnythorpe

This time GridHeritage has really excelled itself with a great turnout for its January 2012 trip to Bunnythorpe. These trips are where the team really gets things done. We spent hours sorting, photographing and cataloguing equipment and then storing it in the GridHeritage permanent storage area.



*Back row: Richard Donaldson, Kent Murrell, Brian Howard, Tony Silke & Les Davys.
Front row: Megan Kerstens & Lou Lomas*

A historically important contribution was a total of 5 boxes and filing cabinets from Islington. Earle Nunn has cared for this collection but it has had to be moved while building renovations are being done at Islington. Many of the papers and photos will be of immense value to GridHeritage as we are shortly starting on documenting the history of System Operation in New Zealand.

Colin Burleigh HVDC collection.

Following Colin's untimely death last year we were given boxes of manuals, reports and assorted other HVDC information. This collection is too specialised for our team to sort out and some of the books are possibly unique. Much of the early HVDC was an Industrial Secret in the early days of mercury-arc valves. GridHeritage

enlisted the help of Mike O'Brien to inspect and sort the collection and we have reluctantly dumped material that is not historically important but have retained really valuable items.

Our Collection Database

A large part of our work is building and maintaining our PastPerfect database. PastPerfect is a USA designed system used by museums and collections throughout the world. While it is ideal for our work it is complex and does a lot more than we actually need. Information on PastPerfect can be found at:

<http://www.museumsoftware.com/>

The part of our collection that you see on the Net is a companion product, Virtual Exhibit, and is merely a window into selected parts of the main data.

http://www.gridheritage.org.nz/b_tour.html

We expect to make a huge addition to our information in the next few months largely due to the work that Megan and Louise are doing on our documents and photos. Previously we have done simple high level documenting of these items. Now we are scanning, photographing and documenting in much greater detail that will be of use to researchers in the future.

Kieran Devine's Long Service

Transpower has recognised Kieran's ten years service although he has been in the industry for many many more years than that.



Kieran opening the Hiko simulator at Wairakei in the 80s. Peter Taylor photo from the Bob Howlett collection.

Tony...