



## Heritage Happenings for January 2011

### **Tony's Tales**

Hi again, and a warm welcome to 2011. The GridHeritage collection continues to grow and even through the holidays we managed to gain a few more treasures for our collection and we also quietly worked on preserving some more from our past.

### **Coin operated domestic meter**

Sometimes we see things that really don't fit into the GridHeritage collection scope but in themselves are interesting pieces of gear. Many of you will recall your early flatting days with a dreaded coin in the slot meter. This one was found on Trade Me. It is one of two that were apparently both together in some hall, each meter supplying down one side of the hall. They were probably from the Wellington area.



Coin operated meter from Trade Me.

The meter is now proudly on display on Level 2 in Transpower House.

### **Model 220kV flat top tower**

We have had a 3.3 metre high model tower stored for years and we are now planning to get this to the Bunnythorpe Utilities Training Facility. The tower is an artefact in itself as it was initially used in the 1950s for public displays in the Christchurch Cathedral Square. It was later used at the Omas Training School and more recently for a Transpower display at Mystery Creek in Hamilton. The tower has had thousands

of dollars spent on it in refurbishments as much of the aluminium had deteriorated and had to be replaced. GridHeritage also has an HVDC model tower in its collection.

### **Regular Oldies Meeting at Feathers**

Many of you may not be aware that a few of the old-timers from the industry have a regular chat and lunch at the Featherston Bar and Grill. It is a wonderful chance to catch up with a few mates.



Brian Thomas Les Davys, Tony Silke, Rob Perry, Sandy Anderson and Bogdan Manastyrski dining at the Feathers.

### **Another visit to Bunnythorpe**

In December Richard, Brian, Les and Tony again went to Bunnythorpe store to work on the collection. We are well advanced in getting the large items sorted and properly stored and will then be able to concentrate on the marathon task of cataloguing our huge assortment of photos and documents.



Richard installing a conductor sample board

We are quietly running out of storage space which is both good and bad. Bad because we are now limiting additions to the collection, and good because it is

making us hook up onto the walls some of the larger items that have been lying around the floor. Richard, 'the son of a cabinetmaker,' is really in his element here and simply loves this side of our work.



Brian and Richard putting up a Transpower sign and an ex-Islington metering panel

### Changes to GridHeritage Executive

Sadly Jim McRoberts has decided to leave our Executive so to drown our grief we all went to the pub, as you do! Jim will be missed but he assures us that he will always be available to help.



Your Executive in commiseration mode

Our ex-Massey Graduate Mark Holland now has a full-time position with the Reserve Bank Museum on The Terrace. He will continue to do some part-time work on the GridHeritage collection. Kent Murrell has accepted a position on the GridHeritage Executive. Kent has been one of our loyal supporters over the years and will be a welcome addition. John Cook is moving from Transpower but remaining on our Executive. We wish John all the best in his new endeavours.

### Recent additions to our collection

These two photos give us a small insight into the life of linemen, sometimes fun, sometimes high risk.



Bangers n grass

I loved this sausage on a shovel, Sonny Marsh on the Huntly-Stratford line construction in 1985.

And the beautiful photo below speaks for itself.



Piripi PakiPaki, on line construction in 1982

### Oral recording progress

We have completed the recording of the life of Doug Dell and handed the recording to the National Library Oral History people. Doug has been a significant person in our industry and sadly he is unwell.

We have another three oral recording candidates in the pipeline.

Tony...