



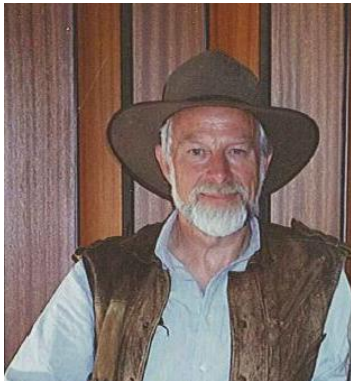
Heritage Happenings for July 2010

Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. GridHeritage is quietly embarking on a new and exciting direction. For some time we have been informally doing digital scanning of many of our photos and a few of our important documents. Now is the time to formalise the process that will ensure that our collection will be a little more permanent and in keeping with museum standards. The first items we plan to do will be the A.E Davenport and E.B Mackenzie collections as these are real industry treasures. From there on we will be slowly going through our hordes of interesting documents and photos. Digitising should mean that images and documents can be kept safely forever, plus they could be readily available on our GridHeritage website for public use in the future.

Obituary, Wal Samson

Sadly Wal Samson passed away on Saturday 12 June 2010. Wal was Transpower's Warehouse Manager who looked after both the Addington and Bunnythorpe stores where we hold our collection. He also looked after our collection as if it were his own.



Wal, in true Wal form

Without Wal I am certain that the GridHeritage collection wouldn't be the success that it is today. He always made space for our collection and somehow always magically transported

gear from around NZ to be safely stored at Bunnythorpe.

And he was a damn good mate. He is a great loss, both personally and to GridHeritage.

It was said at Wal's funeral that the aim of an old-time storekeeper was to hold onto all the stock and not let it out of your sight, this Wal did with the GridHeritage collection and our aim is to keep this aspiration going.

We miss you Wal.

Napier District historic Records

Ernie Start is the Service Centre Manager for Transfield Services in Napier and unfortunately the Napier group has now closed its operations.

The Napier Group has had a long history and contributed a large part in the building of the electricity network on the East Coast from Tokomaru to Masterton and their heritage goes back to the early days when the group was a district of its own.

Ernie is currently finalizing the archiving of the records but when he became Manager 20 years ago he preserved the old district records and he has some that go back to 1925 including early photos of many substations. The collection includes the old hand written account registers, building files etc. Also included are some photos of retirements and staff photos around the 1950/60s.

We are hoping to get hold of this collection in the near future and this will be another massive digitising exercise.

Alstom Users Group Conference

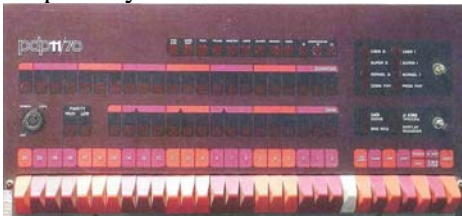
In September Transpower is hosting an Alstom Australasian Users Group Conference in Wellington. So what does this mean to GridHeritage I hear you ask? This was originally the ESCA



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Users Group that has been involved in the development of SCADA and market systems for many years. This technology has played a central part in the efficient centralised operation of the New Zealand power system. Transpower staff have been involved in the development and maintenance of the software, and in the setting up of the original ESCA organisation in Seattle. This conference is an opportunity for GridHeritage to collect and document the history of the 15 year Transpower/ESCA relationship.

Research into this subject has also reopened the need to document the hardware used in early Transpower computer systems.



Console as used in the first Islington SCADA system

To start the computer via this console required the input of a string of complex instructions. Quite unlike just pushing the Start button on a modern PC. My we have come a long way.

GridHeritage software updating

Mark, our Museum expert has been educating us on the proper use of our collection database. Les Davys has been pounding away on the keyboard putting in new standardised descriptions and keywords that really make future additions to the collection much simpler than the lengthy way we were previously doing the work.

GridHeritage overseas correspondent

As mentioned in the last newsletter Stuart Nicholson has left New Zealand for his big OE. Here is his latest contribution:



Our Overseas Correspondent

The hectic life rolls on ... Off to Warwick for a meeting today - by train of course (keeps the carbon footprint down!). Last weekend, every weekend being "long" these days, we took a rental car up to Kent for a couple of nights. Did Sissinghurst, and I went to Dungeness - the RSPB birding site, not the nuclear power station which was humming/roaring in the distance.

Wed & Thurs this week I go off on another two train day-trips to nearby training courses, one on "The Duties of the Designer Regs 2007"! Then Friday and we're off in a rental car again to destinations yet to be decided. Maybe Oxfordshire, maybe South West...

In terms of actual work I am leading the outline design for a 400 kV 200 Mvar reactor, involved in Design Assurance review of a 66 kV outdoor switchyard replaced with GIS indoor switchgear, and reviewed a report on 11 kV vacuum vs. SF6 interrupters. So it is business as usual, but with the volts and amps being a bit higher!

Sex at 82

I just got as leaflet in my letterbox informing me that I can have sex at 82. I'm soooo happy because I live at 73 so it's not too far to walk home afterwards.

Thanks to Kapiti Greypower Newsletter.

Tony Silke...