



Heritage Happenings for May 2010

Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. We have had lots of excitement in the last couple of months with people coming and going and regular additions being made to the collection. It has taken a long time for our organisation to be recognised and trusted but it is clearly starting to happen.

Woodville T1 Transformer

Transpower's oldest transformer is coming to GridHeritage in the near future and will be safely stored in the Bunnythorpe store yard.

The 82 year old British Electric Co. Woodville T1 is being decommissioned and while we have no immediate plans for its use we see the need to ensure that this old lady is safely protected for the future.



One phase of the Woodville 110/11kV T1 Bank

It does make one wonder just what the lifespan of electrical equipment might really be. 82 years of reliable service certainly says a lot for the pioneers of the English electrical equipment manufacturers. Transpower plans to replace the existing transformer bank with two 10 MVA transformers. These will provide N - 1 security at Woodville for the future.

Historic films

You may have already had a look at the excellent films available on the Internet on ZILN. This link to a video of Roxburgh construction is an excellent example. There are many other historic films that are provided by NZ Archives. http://www.ziln.co.nz/program_detail.php?program_id=304&channel_id=60

ZILN also allows Internet access to live and recorded TV channels and programmes from throughout the world.

Changes to GridHeritage Executive

John Cook has agreed to join our GridHeritage Executive team. John has already contributed much to our work in the way of copying videos to DVD and restoring old photographs, plus keeping us up with technology changes as they come along. John will be very welcome. He is currently working as a Project Manager for Transpower.

Jim McRoberts has been recuperating from an operation and hasn't been closely involved in our Executive Team for a while.



Jim McRoberts and Lis Davys deep in conversation

Jim's health is now improving and he will be bringing his wisdom back to our team in the near future.

GridHeritage overseas correspondent

As mentioned in the last newsletter Stuart Nicholson has left New Zealand for his big OE. Some folk do this in



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their twenties but Stuart has decided to do it a bit later in life.

Here are some excerpts from his first email since he left New Zealand.



Our Overseas Correspondent

We have "done" Genoa and Florence and are now in Lucca. We are getting ourselves sorted, budget expectations have needed a little trimming - the food is so yummy it is hard to say "no". We got a rental car after Florence and are now planning to live out of the supermarkets.

I am realising Italy is very old - 13-14th century buildings are very common where we have been (Genoa, Florence, Lucca). Walking/promenading around the walls of Lucca this afternoon I realised the city was a totally built environment, including the parks and gardens - but it has evolved over centuries of little adjustments here and there. I am realising that I am interested in design, so are the Italians, and so was John Britten (the Beca team gave me his biography as a going away present, plus a field guide to the birds of UK & Europe). I think the Italians do design very well, and everything seems to work very well - they are just a bit casual about how they organise themselves and their tourists! Every little bit of what I see in houses or on the street seems to have been carefully thought about from a design

perspective. Architects seem to be involved in how things look in national parks for instance - how a footbridge or a gate should look. I wonder if this comes from their being in touch with how things were done in the deep past, learning from that, and doing it a bit better next time - if it doesn't work, drop it and start again! Perhaps GridHeritage is reminding us of how things have been done before, and we need to pick up on the good parts. Sounding too much like a sermon so I had better stop!

Stuart....

Keeping GridHeritage professional

As we have mentioned in previous Newsletters we are currently employing a Massey Museum Studies Graduate to put our collection onto a more professional basis. Mark Holland has been studying how we manage our PastPerfect database and has already drafted up an 'Idiot's Guide to PastPerfect'. As casual users we have difficulty in keeping up with the program and Mark's work will give us a better understanding of the program.

He is also doing an evaluation of the E.B.Mackenzie and A.E.Davenport collections to help us decide on our future actions on these valuable resources.

A major new direction for us is that we are working towards digitising our many photographs which will start with these two collections. To do this it looks like we will have to setup our own scanning system which will be very costly. Mark is studying other small museums to see how they are managing their photos. Waihi Museum are digitising every single photograph they have, this is a massive task.

Tony Silke...