

Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. What a messed up period it has been for some of our people with earthquakes and aftershocks in the Canterbury area and snow in the deep South. Thankfully Transpower managed things pretty well and I guess some of our present and retired folk must take a lot of credit for the robustness of the present power system equipment.

Unusual meter

Many of you will already know that I have been searching the world for the background to this most unusual meter that was recently donated to GridHeritage.



Meter for x-ray tube circa 1910

After some 80 emails we are now pretty certain that was made in either Germany or France around 1910 and came from an early x-ray machine. If anyone has any better ideas please let us know.

Now we have to decide what to do with such an unusual treasure as it doesn't really fit in with the GridHeritage collection scope. Hope is at hand as there is a Medical Museum at Palmerston North Hospital interested in taking it for their collection. We plan to meet up with them when we do our next Bunnythorpe trip.

Watch this space.

Power from the Waikato River

The link below takes you to a 1947 twenty three minute historic film on the building of power stations on the Waikato river, plus some priceless shots of the North Island Control Centre.

http://www.ziln.co.nz/program_detail.php?program_id=1683&channel_id=60

They don't come any better than this. Grab a cuppa and sit down with the family and enjoy it.

Our recent visit to Bunnythorpe

Richard, Les and Tony braved the miserable weather and put in two days cataloguing and photographing new additions to our collection. It is a slow and tedious job but finally the PastPerfect database is getting into good shape, mostly thanks to Les for keeping us on track.



High voltage tester

Now that our incoming storage space is regularly filling up each trip we have to work hard to keep up with new acquisitions as they arrive. Recent acquisitions include ongoing treasures from the old Nelson District, plus some recent treasures from Napier District.

Many of the acquisitions being donated to us are of a more recent vintage than I am. Such is life for us oldies.

We are planning another Bunnythorpe trip before Christmas and I feel sure that there will be more boxes of treasures awaiting us.



Heritage Happenings for September 2010

Photograph collection

It is not often that a CD and a DVD containing over 450 heritage photos arrives but this is what happened this week. Dave Hodge from Palmerston North had toiled and put together this wonderful collection of Palmerston North folk and communications equipment through the ages. Every photo is titled and labelled. It must represent many hours of painstaking effort which is much appreciated.

GridHeritage AGM November 2010

We are now preparing for our AGM. The venue is tentatively booked in Transpower House for 11th November. Details will be sent out when they are confirmed.

GridHeritage overseas correspondent Stuart Nicholson

Well last night Jane and I really tapped in to our British roots and went to the Proms in the (Hyde) Park. It was a great experience to turn off my brain and just enter in to it all. We met up with my nephew and his fiancée, and amazingly bumped into Dennis Hunt from Beca NZ who I worked with for 12 years! Dennis came back later in the evening to get photographic evidence – he reckoned they wouldn't believe he had come across me – so someone photographed us standing with the BBC Proms stage behind us. We had a nice picnic, and, with our well-lubricated voices, entered into the singing with great gusto. There was a NZ flag flying on a pole so I went over and said Giddyay. Today we went to the Tate Modern to pay our respects ... Need to do a course in Appreciation of Modern Art, I think ☺ Then back to Brighton on the train. Lovely sunny weather, so we sat in a grassy garden (New Stein) for a while on the way home, then down to the beach to get the last of the sun.

Such is life here – a random snap shot anyway. I am not going up to Blyth, Northumberland this week as I have a National Grid training course (substation entry stuff) on Wednesday, so it will be a change – but Jane's job this week takes her away for four days!

Alstom Users Group

I find it hard to believe that a heritage organisation would be invited to put on a display at a conference that deals with modern sophisticated software and computer systems.



Transpower's Patrick Strange at the GridHeritage display

However, GridHeritage was asked to provide a heritage display for the Alstom Users Group that was recently held in Wellington. The combined Australian New Zealand Group has been meeting since the earliest introduction of the Electricity Market and has kept the users up to date with developments, plus it is a great venue for sharing ideas.



Doug Goodwin and Tony at the GridHeritage display

Our display covered equipment and photos from early SCADA and energy management systems plus memorabilia from earlier conferences. It is not often that we find a heritage display gracing the foyer of a leading hotel but that is what we did for two days in the Intercontinental and feedback from the attendees was excellent.

Tony Silke...