



Heritage Happenings for January 2009

Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. Welcome to 2009. After years of slow and steady effort GridHeritage is now being recognised and hopefully being respected. We purposely kept a low profile in the early days as we were small and not well setup. Now we have a significant collection and it is growing at a rapid rate. The publishing of "Connecting the Country" has certainly added to our fame and my desk is currently snowed under with new and interesting acquisitions.

Connecting the Country

The book, written by Helen Reilly was launched by Transpower last month and has been very well received. I have had a lot of really positive feedback.



Transpower CEO Patrick Strange launches the book

The book is available from the publisher, Steele Roberts.

<http://steeleroberts.co.nz/books/isbn/978-1-877448-40-9>

Transpower staff can purchase a copy from Transpower Reception for a discounted price. The idea for the book came from Wayne Eagleson who was Transpower's General Manager for Corporate Affairs at the time.



Wayne and Helen at the book-launch

GridHeritage made use of the book-launch opportunity to show off some of its collection and to drum up interest for our society.



Kieran Devine, Tony and Helen with our display

Our refurbished ex-Waitaki water flowmeter was the display centre piece and this was surrounded with some of the 'pretty' exhibits from our collection. The display generated quite some discussion.

GridHeritage AGM

The AGM this year was very well attended and resulted in reappointing the existing Executive. That is Tony Silke, Chair; Richard Donaldson, Deputy Chair; Brian Howard, Treasurer; Les Davys, Secretary. Discussion for future activities was wide ranging and included a proposal to set-up a national organisation to bring together the various electrical collections in New Zealand. The audited Financial Statements were tabled and approved.

Membership

Our Memberships continues to grow and is currently around 45. We would like to involve the members in more activities but it is difficult with the majority of our work being done at Bunnythorpe which necessitates a lot of travel.

We will be showing more lunchtime videos in Transpower House this year. Watch this space for dates and times.

Recent additions to our collection.

John Claridge has just sent us some of those wonderful old ECNZ Newsletters, these ones dating from 1973 to 1978.

The November 1973 issue records the obituary of A.E.Davenport who was appointed as General Manager of the State-Hydro Electric Department in 1948 and retired in 1963.

GridHeritage. Registered as: "The Electricity Transmission Heritage of New Zealand Incorporated"

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The same issue tells of the move to the 'new' Rutherford House near the Wellington Railway Station. The staff from Museum Street moved onto the first six floors in February and this was to be followed by the remainder of the staff over time. Apparently the initial move was to free the old Museum Street offices for parliamentary staff to move into. Even in the 'good old days' we were shoved around by Parliament.

In the same issue it was announced "TWIZEL CONTROL STATION TO USE COMPUTER" and went on to describe the proposed remote controlling of the four hydro stations.

The issue also recorded the commencement of a trial of "Glide Time". Oh the wonderful days when folk worked and faithfully recorded a 37½ or 40 hour working week.

GridHeritage DVD Collection

John Cook has just completed the copying of our extensive video and film collection onto DVD. We now have two sets of 10 DVD cases each professionally labelled and containing up to 3 DVD's per case. We also have the files from the DVD's safely stored on a large hard disk drive. These DVD's probably contain the most precious part of our recent history. Thanks John.



Tony and the GridHeritage DVD collection.

Diesel Stations

We recently had cause to dig into the history of the Dobson Diesel power station. This led me to thinking about the Stoke Diesels and I started to enquire about their histories. I was really disappointed to find that there seems to be

a real shortage of information on these and other diesel stations.

Does anyone have any material on old diesel power stations or perhaps lead me to where I can find some?

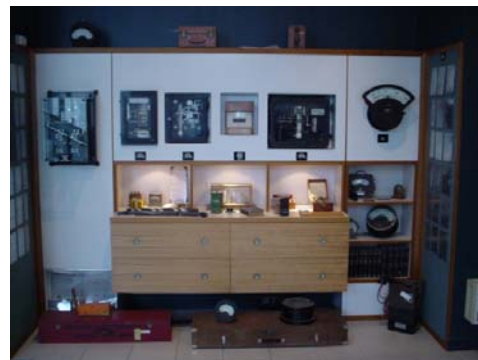
Lesson for this issue.

In the last Newsletter I raved on about the need to make sure that when you take a photo you print on the back of it all of the details, who, where and when. These are necessary if the photos are to be any use to future generations.

Digital photos are no different. As soon as you store them please, please, file them with a meaningful title. Your descendants will thank you for your effort.

GridHeritage activities

We intend visiting Islington shortly where 120+ items of the original collection are displayed, so that these can be recorded and photographed. The Islington display is in the foyer of the centre and was assembled before we set-up our cataloguing and photographing system that we have in place for the rest of the collection.



The original display at Islington.

We are also planning another visit to Bunnythorpe to continue the work on our ever-expanding collection.

Recently we have had a surge of donations of equipment from friends, and my desk in Transpower is a bit of an embarrassment with gear stashed everywhere. Richard's hip surgery means that we haven't had the use of his large car to move the gear but he is now coming right again so very soon I may find the top of my desk once more.

See you in the next issue. Tony...