

### Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. The heritage business continues to keep us busy with many significant additions to our collection. Our publicity seems to be finally paying off.

### A.E.Davenport Collection

We are indebted to Peter Davenport for giving us a collection of memorabilia from his father A.E Davenport who had a long and distinguished career in the electricity industry. He was involved in power station construction of various stations and was Resident Engineer in Hokitika, Greymouth and Christchurch before moving to Wellington where he held a number of senior engineering positions.



Waihou substation 1923. Davenport collection

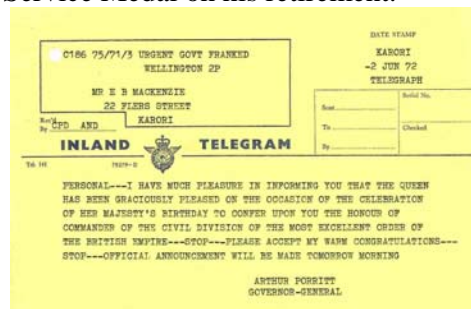
He was appointed manager of the State Hydro-Electric Department in 1948.



A.E.Davenport, left, at the opening of Maraetai 5 Sept. 1953  
He retired in 1963 after leading the Department through a period of massive changes. He was also awarded a CMG in 1963 in recognition of his service to the industry.

### E.B.Mackenzie Collection

We have also been donated a very large collection of E.B.Mackenzie memorabilia from the Mackenzie family. Mackenzie's career followed after Davenport and he was General Manager NZ Electricity from 1963 to 1972. He was awarded a Queen's Service Medal on his retirement.



It would be a while since you last spotted a Telegram!

Mackenzie was influential in decisions on the HVDC, Nuclear Power, Manapouri and the aluminium smelter. He died in 1983 and the collection has, until now, been in the hands of his daughter.

Because of the significance of these two collections we are employing a museum specialist to sort out and advise us on how to feature this collection. The Mackenzie collection includes hundreds of glass photo slides, some dating back to Horahora where he worked in the early 1930s.

### Waihi commemorates New Zealand's first major transmission line

On a fine 6 March 2010 Waihi came out to celebrate the reconditioning and raising of one of the original towers from the Horahora to Waikino 50kV transmission line. This line took power from Horahora power station on the Waikato River near Cambridge, 72 km to the Goldfields at Waihi.

The Martha Gold Mining Company completed the line in 1913 and the nearly 500 towers, ranging in height of

up to 12 metres were considered to be large structures at the time. The power was used to supply the huge stamping batteries. The power station and line were purchased by the government in 1919. The line remained in service until it was decommissioned in the 1970s and the towers were dismantled and used for scrap or by local farmers for bridges and reinforcing.

The commemorative day started with a trip on the historic Goldfields train from Waihi to Waikino and then a tour round the remnants of the Victoria Battery where the gold was extracted from the rock.



Waikino 50kV transformer house, now a museum.

The formal sessions were held at the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum where the rebuilt tower was proudly standing. Volunteers from the Museum spoke about the challenges of project that restored the tower to its now pristine condition.

Major funding for the project came from Transpower from the sale of the book "Connecting the Country".

The Mayor of the Hauraki District Council, John Tregidga spoke of the importance of the electricity supply to the economics of the district and on the historic significance of the occasion.

Tony Silke spoke on behalf of GridHeritage of the importance of protecting our heritage.

A large display board that tells the story of the line was unveiled by John Tregidga and Paul Blue of Transpower.

Interestingly the towers were purchased for £13 each and were not galvanised. Galvanising would cost an extra pound per tower and it was thought at the time that the additional cost was not warranted due to the short life expectancy of the goldmine. The mine is still in operation!

There is local interest in rebuilding and re-erecting other towers on this line, possibly outside both the Cambridge and Matamata Museums and at least one other in a prominent point on one of the beautiful local walkways.

DOC is particularly interested in future historic developments near the Victoria Battery and in the Waikino Transformer House which is now used to house a historic display.

### GridHeritage overseas correspondent

Stuart Nicholson, one of the founders of GridHeritage and our technical expert, is off to the UK for a few years on a working OE. The GridHeritage team recently had a pleasant meal together to thank Stuart for his contribution.



Stuart and part of the GridHeritage team

Stuart has promised to keep in touch and send us a few words on his experiences for our GridHeritage Newsletter.

Stuart, we look forward to your future contributions.

Tony Silke...