



Heritage Happenings for May 2006

Tony's Tales

Hi to all of the GridHeritage members and friends. This is our first attempt at producing a newsletter that will hopefully bring you all up to speed with our happenings. Now that GridHeritage is growing we hope to produce a regular Newsletter that will cover all of our work. We want this to be your newsletter so please give us your feedback so that we can improve it. We hope to cover our interesting events and challenges and quietly involve more members in our interesting activities.

Bunnythorpe Collection

We now have 3 sheds at Bunnythorpe housing our collection. In the largest shed we have the main collection that is slowly being sorted and photographed. This is an enormous task requiring both photographic and database skills to get each item recorded into our museum software PastPerfect. In a small adjacent shed we continue to house new equipment as it arrives. In the other shed we are holding larger equipment such as line maintenance tools until we get a chance to find proper storage space for them. We are indebted to Transpower for the use of their space, and especially grateful to Wal Samson and Janet Black for providing us access and security.

Membership

Current membership stands at around 35 and we have been really guilty of not involving members in our activities. We will change this in the near future.

Website

At last the GridHeritage website is nearing completion and is expected to be online before the end of June. The exhibit part of the site is running on Transpower's Intranet and can be accessed by going to **Groups/Grid_Heritage/vewebiste03**. In this folder you will find **index.htm**. Double-click this and the exhibition will start and you can navigate through part of the collection.

Connecting the Country

Helen Reilly has been commissioned by Transpower to write this book about the

history of the NZ electricity transmission system. The book is in the early stages but a great deal of important research work has already been done. The Energy Library and Transpower's archives have provided a wealth of material.

Oral History recording

We have been quietly plodding on with recording the working lives of significant people in the industry and to date have done some 22 recordings. We are privileged to have David Young doing our recording. David is a past editor of the Listener and has written various books on conservation. He also wrote Matahina – Power in the Land.

Queensland Energy Museum

QEM has a collection of historic artefacts from the Queensland area. They cover a wider sector of the industry and their focus is on education, especially working with schools. They have a great deal in common with GridHeritage and we recently signed a 'Sister Museum Agreement' with them enabling us to share ideas between us. QEM has similar agreements with other Australian museums but we are the first overseas collection to be invited to join up with them.

Historic Film shows

GridHeritage now holds some 50 videos and DVDs on the history of our industry. We try and focus on transmission but this is not always possible. We have recently put on a number of screenings and will continue to do so to interested groups.

Financial

We started the society with a substantial grant from Transpower and have received grants for specific projects since then. We remain in good financial health but may in the near future need to find some funds as some of our current projects, such as the website are starting to cost us.

We want your feedback

We need to know what members want from us and welcome your feedback. Please phone or email us with any ideas.