



Heritage Happenings for April 2012

Tony's Tales

I'm not sure what happened to the start of 2012, we missed summer and now the mornings are getting cooler, I feel that we have been cheated. Despite these problems GridHeritage has been busy with Bunnythorpe trips and working on sorting the ever growing collection.

The GridHeritage Flowmeter

Some years back we rescued a flowmeter from the water-damaged ECNZ collection. Despite the damage we had it professionally restored at great cost and it is now on display in the Transpower Wellington Control Room.



However there has been confusion as to where the flowmeter had originated. Only recently we enquired of Tony Halberg and Bob Howlett and found that there had been 3 such meters at Tuai, one per turbine. This was in complete contradiction to previous enquiries where we were told that Tuai never had any such devices. Bob finally laid the query to rest by producing a photo of the 3 flowmeters proudly standing in place at Tuai.



3 Flowmeters in place at Tuai

This search has taken us 4 years and it is really satisfying to bring it to an end.

Telephone changes in Transpower

Transpower has installed a new phone system and has had to allocate new Telecom numbers. Our new DDI numbers will start with 590 instead of 494. For example my 04 494 7474 will now become 04 590 7474.

Texting for over 40

The kids have all their little SMS codes like BFF WTF LOL etc. so here are some new codes us more mature folk.

ATD - At The Doctors
BFF- Best Friends Funeral
BABW- Bring a Bloody Wheelchair
FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA - Got Heartburn Again
HGBM Had Good Bowel Movement
IMHO - Is My Hearing-aid On?
WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?

Another Bunnythorpe visit

Brian, Richard Les and Tony braved another visit to Bunnythorpe to work on the GridHeritage collection. On previous visits we have struggled with entering items into our database, photographing the items and then storing them on our shelves.



Photographing the collection at Bunnythorpe

On this visit we followed Megan's new system that enabled us to process more than one item at a time. We were all surprised to see just how much progress



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we made; it has been a very satisfactory visit.



Les Davys on Bunnythorpe kitchen duties

On each trip we enter the description of the items into the PastPerfect database, photograph the item and then box it and locate it on a storage shelf. This is extremely time-consuming but we are getting the work done. Lack of space is now becoming a problem and we are restricting new additions to the collection to small items.

Special Poem For Older Folk

A row of bottles on my shelf, caused
me to analyse myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop; goes to
my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take; goes to my
hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot; tell me
I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain and
tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze or
cough or choke or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them, all go to
my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright,
prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills, helping
to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know.....
Is what tells each one where to go!

GridHeritage Display

GridHeritage was invited to put on a historic display at the Meeting of Australasian System operators and

American Power Dispatchers, held in Wellington. Our videos of early System Control plus some books and instruments from our collection certainly attracted a lot of interest among the attendees. It appears that there are not a lot of similar heritage collections among our neighbours.



Part of our GridHeritage display

Updating our Database

GridHeritage manages its collection on an American museum database called PastPerfect. It is extremely complex and capable of doing far more than we ask from it.

However we have stretched things in that we are now inputting data into PastPerfect on two PCs. Les manages the Objects data while Megan is working on our photos and documents. The trick is that we have to join the two systems together and this is always a time to start worrying.



Les and Megan synchronising their databases

Despite our worries PastPerfect seems to reliably perform this function and we finally got to breath easily.

Tony...

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Te Mana Hiko Tuku Iho

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