

Tony's Tales

Hi again everyone. GridHeritage has had an extremely busy few months but we are finally making good progress with our work. We now have a great team of willing helpers and have a lot of fun with our efforts on the collection.

An interesting Christmas Card

Nothing changes. This 1970s card showing a tower on the lawn was presented to Jim McRoberts by some locals when he was Distribution Engineer at Khandallah. The caption reads 'We hardly notice it'.



GridHeritage AGM and Film Show

We held our 2007 AGM in November followed by an interesting film showing. At the AGM we had a few changes in our committee. Following the resignation of Stuart Nicholson, Les Davys has taken the position of Secretary. Richard Donaldson continues on as Deputy Chair, Brian Howard is again our Treasurer and Tony Silke remains as Chair.

We had a large turnout to the film showing, both from Transpower staff and our members; it must be the free lunches that we put on. We showed a most interesting Electricorp Production video made in 1990 called "Our Future Generation". This short video showed the operation of the various forms of generation in New Zealand and how they were coordinated and managed in the pre-market days.

The Damaged ECNZ Collection

We are still trying to sort out what can be done with the old ECNZ collection that has been seriously water damaged. We have employed Detlef Klein, a professional Conservator to assist us in the restoration

or disposal of the damaged items. Already some of the collection has been damaged beyond repair and will be disposed of or used for spares. Some other damaged items that are not wanted by GridHeritage may be repairable by others in the industry and we will advertise these or dispose of them at a later date.

Bunnythorpe Collection

Work continues on identifying and photographing the ever-growing collection. We had a very worthwhile 3-day working-bee there recently and added many new items to the collection.

We have also cleared out a new area for keeping our valuable documents and photos. This space is small enough to allow us to control the temperature and humidity, thus ensuring the long life of our important documents.

Oral History Recording

We have recently completed a trip to Islington to record the early history of the South Island System Control. Normally Oral Recordings cover the life of the interviewee. This recording was unusual in that we wanted to record the early South Island system operation. To do this we set up groups of 3 interviewees together. The groups were arranged in chronological order to capture the various stages of development. We already had photos of the Control Room at Addington but Earle Nunn was certain that there was some form of operation prior to then. Sure enough, Bob Nordstrom could recall an early operation in the old Test Room at Addington.



Addington Dispatch Office 1940s

Note the lack of technology and the quaint ideas such as the bottle of ink on the desk and the operator wearing a suit.



Heritage Happenings for February 2008

GridHeritage is currently planning a similar oral recording visit to capture the early history of the North Island Centres.

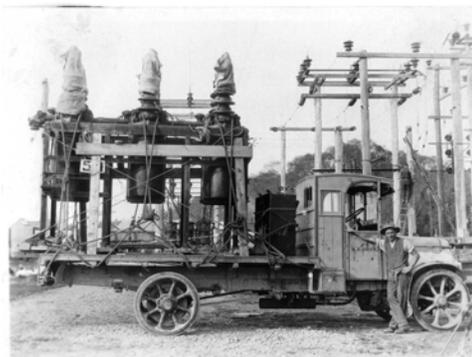
Recent additions to our collection

Now that we are becoming known we are receiving regular additions to our collection. I was really pleased to receive from an ex-colleague, now living in sunny Brisbane, a mint version of 'The History of Arapuni', this book was written in 1979 by I.J.Southwood to commemorate the Golden Jubilee. The book contains interesting information on early Arapuni and on the North Island electricity system. I have scanned the book and if anyone wants a read please let me know.

Connecting the Country

The Helen Reilly book on the history of the NZ electricity transmission system is now with the publisher and should be completed shortly. The book which was commissioned by Transpower has grown to near 400 pages and contains hundreds of photos, many of them from our GridHeritage collection.

While gathering photos for the book we uncovered numerous interesting historic photos. The 1932 one below shows a solid wheeled truck with an Oil Circuit Breaker strapped on its back.



OCB travelling from Hororata to Ashburton

Your busy little Executive

Much of the GridHeritage work is done by a loyal band of toilers. The photo below shows Les Davys, Tony Silke, Richard Donaldson and Brian Howard settling down to one of our regular meetings. Unfortunately Jim McRoberts wasn't available for this meeting but he now forms part of the core of our organisation. We meet in Transpower House to set our

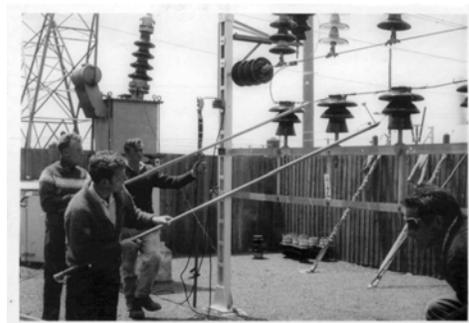
direction and to do routine administration chores. We also meet regularly at Richard's office where we catalogue equipment prior to moving it to our permanent storage at Bunnythorpe.



GridHeritage happy little team

We need your help

We have uncovered this photo of what appears to be a live line training setup and men using buzz sticks on insulators.



We believe that the picture came from the North Island, perhaps either Napier or Palmerston North District. Does anyone know any more about the people in the picture or the location?

Website www.gridheritage.org.nz

Our website is up and running and is receiving a lot of interest. We have a great deal more to add to it when time permits and are quietly working our way through it.

We want your feedback

We need to know what members want from us and welcome your feedback. Please telephone or email us with any ideas that you have, or photos and memorabilia that you can give us. It will be well looked after.