

# Ferrymead Tram Tracts

Newsletter of the  
Tramway Historical Society Inc  
P. O. Box 1126  
Christchurch.  
Website  
[www.ferrymeadtramway.org.nz](http://www.ferrymeadtramway.org.nz)



## Membership drive successful

President GRAEME BELWORTHY reports

A SPECIAL THANKS to Alex Hunter for his effort in organising this and to the members who helped and turned up on the weekend to make it happen.

The weather on Saturday wasn't the best and numbers were not very high, but Sunday was better and numbers were better.

About 30 people signed the attendance sheet for both days and these names will be followed up with a letter offering the opportunity to visit the Tram Barn. A book draw was done for each day with Jacqui van Brucken and John Beattie winning a book each.

We had three join up over the

weekend, those being Rose Marchant joining as a family member with Barry, Scott Bradley as a junior and Brian Andrew as a full member.

A vote of thanks must go to Murray Sanders, Alan Roi and ably assisted by Rosa Marchant who took up an invitation to participate in a Bunnings Warehouse Community Fun Day. They took bus 290 loaded up with display boards and Open Day handouts, and again about 30 signed the attendance sheets. These too will be followed up with a letter. A book draw was also done for this day with the winner being Mr B R Philpot.



*Ken Henderson and his merry band of helpers at work on the track during the membership drive. The idea was to show prospective members the Society going about their normal duties.*

Photo: Graeme Belworthy

## Next work party

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday 28 April 2009**. Formal work parties are held every **third Saturday** of the month but there are also activities every **Saturday** and on **Monday** evenings.

**Editorial address: Joe Pickering, P. O. Box 17, Woodend, North Canterbury 7641. Phone 03 312 2578. Email [jpickering@clear.net.nz](mailto:jpickering@clear.net.nz).**

### COMING EVENTS

## This Month— Visit to the Timeball Station

If you haven't been to the Timeball Station in Lyttelton, this one is a must! This historic museum brings history to life.

**Wednesday 15 April**

Meet at **7.30** at the

**Timeball Station, Reserve Terrace, Lyttelton.**

(Unfortunately there is no room to park and manoeuvre a bus so we have to provide our own transport).

Cost \$10.00 per head including supper.

As we need to know numbers, please contact Alan Roi, 385 2218, or email [alroi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alroi@xtra.co.nz) by no later than

**Sunday 12 April**

Next month

## Dredgings from my Slide Box

**John Shanks** will show selections from his historic photos and tell us something about them. This will include views of trams in service, early views of Ferrymead, and some juicy historical views. John also plans to include photographs he took nearly 60 years ago, not previously shown to the Society, which he hand tinted in the days before he took colour slides. He promises something of interest to everyone.

Date: **Wednesday 20 May 2009**

Venue: **Ferrymead Lions Building** at Ferrymead - enter from Truscotts

Road by Gate A

Time: **7.30 pm**

Cost: **\$2-00. Supper will be served.**

See you there.

# Council to decide on tram extension

Dave Hinman keeps us up to date.

AT ITS FEBRUARY MEETING, the Christchurch City Council adopted for consultation a proposal to extend the city tramway in two stages, the first to the corner of Tuam and High Streets, stopping outside the former High St Post Office (now Alice in Videoland) and the second to Barbadoes St as far as the Music Centre of Christchurch and the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The total route would be 2.7km—about the same length as the present city loop.

The proposal includes funding to a total of \$11.5M, with the first stage to be completed in time for the rugby world cup in September 2011, and the second stage by the summer of 2013. The funding is for track and overhead only, with the tram operator expected to supply further trams and

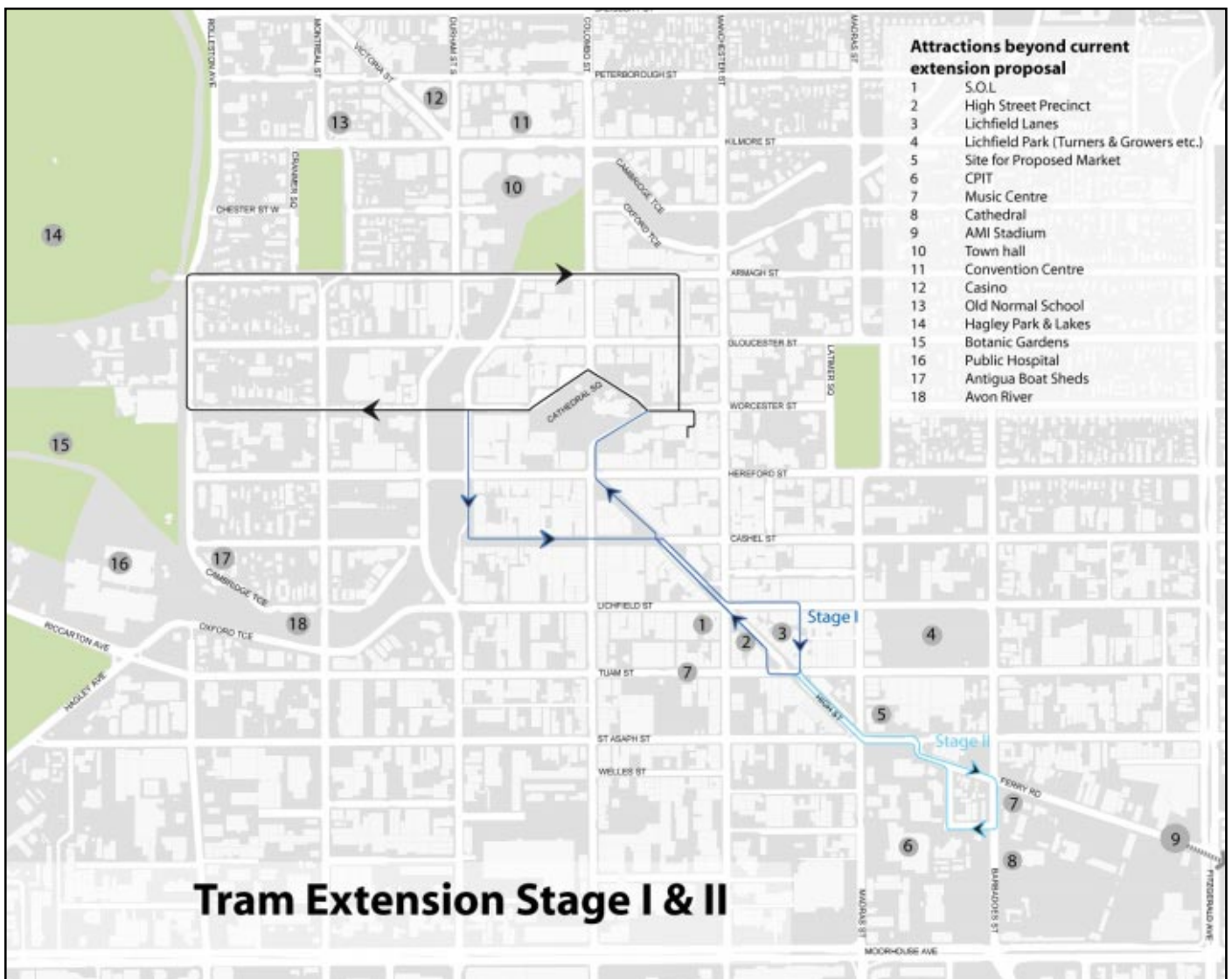
storage. This may provide an opportunity for more trams to be provided by the THS /HTT.

The first stage now continues from the Cashel High corner (end of city mall), double track to Manchester St and then along Lichfield (northern parking lane), right into Poplar Street (“Lichfield Lanes” precinct) and then back along High Street to the mall. This option was selected in preference to routes along Manchester St and double track along High Street with either a balloon loop or a turning wye. The second stage continues in double track along High St and Ferry Road to Barbadoes Street, turning back via Coventry and Williams Street and passing close to the still standing former premises of Boon & Co, the builders of most of the Christchurch

tram fleet. Existing rails still in High Street are still being evaluated for re-use.

The proposal is open for public submission until 16 April and there will be a public meeting in the Council Chamber about the tram extension on Wednesday 25 March at 6pm. Anyone can make a submission for or against the tram extension—(so THS members if you want to support the proposal, now is your opportunity! - Ed.)

Hearings will follow in May and a Council decision is expected in June. If approved the Mall upgrade including tram tracks will be completed first, followed by Oxford Terrace, Colombo-Cathedral Square and then the extension to Tuam Street.



# Ferrymead happenings

Thank you ALAN ROI for this very comprehensive report.

## Tram 26

Tram 26 is coming together nicely with the "Birds Eye Maple" ceiling panels now in place. Barry Marchant continues to preparing and varnishing the saloon windows. Brian Fairbrass and Graeme Richardson are working on the upper deck seating. Brian is also machining the towing bases for the tram. John King is starting to make good progress on the trucks with the wheel sets now in gauge and only requiring a skim on the lathe. Dave Whale is now busy assembling the "Facing Mother" seating for the saloon. Graeme has fitted the eastern end saloon doors. 26 is starting to REALLY come together and if you haven't been for a look then you will be pleasantly surprised.



"Valiant" Dave McFelin has continued with refurbishing of the Thames truck; the cab now being a lovely shade of grey. Dave Carr has replaced the hydraulic fluid in the front end loader and it is now running a lot smoother.

## Overhead

On 18 March a team under the supervision of Murray Sanders spent time planting the last four poles to replace the wooden ones between the paddock loop and Truscotts Road. These four poles will have the telephone wires attached to them and then Murray will install the new bracket arms to enable the overhead to be raised to clear tram 26.

Over the summer Murray and crew have installed eight new bracket arms on the first batch of new poles. The four poles nearest the Ferrymead Bridge have replica CTB style fittings on them and the remainder carry the fittings we obtained from Stockton on the West Coast.



## Cable Trailer 111

The body of this is looking great with Don McAra having put a lot of time into the signwriting on the outside. The saloon windows are "Taylor Made" thanks to a large amount of work by Brian Taylor.

## Works tram W5

This vehicle now has the platform fitted to the tower. Graeme Richardson and Brian Fairbrass have fitted the deck on this and Murray Sanders is fitting the access ladder and handrails to this tram. The tower will prove extremely useful raising the overhead for 26. Some portions of the tramway are not road vehicle accessible.



Top: the auger digs the hole for a new pole.

Middle: the pole goes in.

Above: Murray Sanders in airborne mode.

Photos: Alan Roi

## Around the Barn

The tram barn smoko room has had new carpet laid. Linda Fox was able to persuade Watkins Carpet Court to donate us some almost new carpet. Colin Loach, Ken Henderson and Murray Sanders spent a day laying and preparing this carpet. Heaven help anyone Murray spots walking in

there with dirty boots.

Brian Fairbrass and John King have made repairs to the small lathe after it broke down. About \$1200 was spent on replacement parts.

A second hand slotting machine has been obtained and is already being used in the machining of 26's towing bases.

## Trolleybuses

In October last year we obtained COF's for Dunedin 70 and Wellington 103. These two buses have since operated on the first Sunday of each month (Steam Sunday) and on a number of occasions over the summer holidays. It is pleasing to see how much fun our visitors get from a ride on an electric bus.

Bus 210 continues to make progress on becoming re-registered. We had the bus COF tested along with the other two in October. It has been at the tram barn area since January and a team consisting of Dave Carr, Cam Lill and Graeme Belworthy have repaired spring mounting bushes in the rear suspension. Repairs are needed to the indicators and a service will be done. Then we will be

submitting 210 for a recheck. The bus can then be registered, a status it last held in 1956.

Unfortunately 103 has suffered an electrical fault in some of the control contactors and is currently inoperable. We have been given some replacement parts thanks to the generosity of our friends in the Omnibus Society in Wellington. Ken Finnemore has offered to undertake the repair work.

Over the summer we have tidied the trolleybus smoko room giving it a repaint inside. We have had a replacement fridge donated and the "eagle eyed" Belworthys were able to obtain a second hand stove at an extremely good price. After planting poles for Murray we had some concrete ingredients left over and we have extended the path at the front of the depot in front of the sprinkler valve house.

## Membership Drive

We owe a big vote of thanks to Alex Hunter who took on the coordinators role for this function. We held this over the weekend of 28 February and 1 March. The Saturday was miserable but the Sunday was fine and we entertained a number of interested folk. Our activities included:

- Kitson rides
- Tram Driving Experiences,
- Model trams
- Track and overhead work
- Diesel bus and trolleybus rides.
- The Bedford and Ford V8 tower wagons were on show.

Potential members were given an information pack and your committee are following up on new mem-



## Trackwork

**KEN HENDERSON and his gang have been busy too.**

ONGOING MAINTENANCE of the track is the order of the day including groove cleaning in the village. On the membership drive weekend a number of sleepers were replaced in the Paddock Loop for demonstration purposes and passing trams slowed down as the conductors explained what was happening. "Valiant" Dave's skill with the gas has also come in handy with replacing rusty fishplate bolts. There are a few good landscaping sleepers for sale.

bers.

On Saturday 14 March we followed up on the membership drive by taking part in Bunnings Community Day at Tower Junction and a number of members, accompanied by bus 290 were able to further promote the Society.

## General meeting

The March general meeting on the 18th hosted a group from the Sumner-Redcliffs Historical Society. Many of our guests were collected by bus 538 and after a brief welcome from John Honeybone were taken down by tram to the Township where our colleagues in the Fire Society provided a film and a visit to the Hall of Flame. On return to the depot the guests were able to view progress and also enjoy one of

Phyllis's lovely suppers. 538 then whisked our visitors back to Sumner to conclude a lovely evening. During the supper, President Graeme Belworthy was presented with an envelope of interesting photos for the archives.

Our main disappointment was the lack of members at the evening. Should anyone have suggestions for a general meeting, please contact either Alan Roi, Phyllis

Belworthy or John Shanks.

*Top: another view of airborne Murray.*

**Photo: Alan Roi**

*Middle: Alan Roi mans the Society's display at Bunnings.*

**Photo: Alan Roi**

*Bottom: Murray getting his hair cut for charity. He seems to be enjoying the experience.*

**Photo: Dave Hinman**