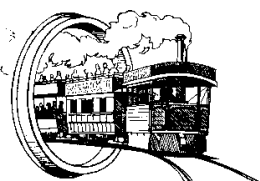


Ferrymead Tram Tracts

Newsletter of the
Tramway Historical Society Inc
P. O. Box 1126
Christchurch.
Website
www.ferrymeadtramway.org.nz



December 2009

Season's Greetings

Your editor and the Committee of the Tramway Historical Society would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas, a great and relaxing holiday and a prosperous New Year.

We have established a tradition with each December issue of *Tracts* of reviewing the last year and thanking our contributors.

Looking back, I see that we had stories and / or photographs from (in alphabetical order) Graeme Belworthy, Dave Carr, Trevor Craib, Russell Grigg, Dave Hansen, Allen Harbrow, Ted Harrall, Ken Henderson, Dave Hinman, Alex Hunter, Colin Loach, Barry Marchant, Dr John Radcliffe, Alan Roi, Murray Sanders, Stephen Taylor, Bruce Whiteside, Kerry Young. My thanks to you all. And as ever those stalwarts Colin and Win Loach who do the tedious work of folding and posting the newsletters and Barry Marchant who keeps the mailing list. Without

you good folks there would be no newsletter.

It is also worthy of note that, come August, I will have completed ten years as editor of this newsletter and that the time to hand over the reins to someone who will give it a fresh input of energy is not too far away. If anybody would like the job—or thinks he/she can do it better...!

In moving a well deserved vote of thanks to you all I would like to wish everybody the best for the festive season and the coming year.

Tracts takes a break in January and will be back in February.

Joe Pickering
Editor

Alan's work day dinners

Another reminder about the meals that Alan puts on on the monthly work party days. Everyone is invited—indeed encouraged—to partake of Alan's hospitality and to enjoy a sumptuous meal.

Phone Alan on 385 2218 or email alroi@xtra.co.nz to book your meal.

COMING EVENTS

INAUGURATION OF DOUBLE DECKER No 26

This is the event we've all been waiting for and will take place on
**Saturday 23 January 2010
at 2.00pm.**

All members will receive an official invitation giving the programme and parking arrangements.

See you there.

Horse tram in city

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, our double decker trailer No 10 has been hired for a period leading up to Christmas to operate as a horse tram in the central city, using the recently completed rails in Cashel Mall, between Oxford Terrace and High Street.

The tram will offer single rides along the Mall for a gold coin donation, with tickets to be pre-sold at each end of the line.

The following (subject to final confirmation) are the intended dates and times of operation:

Thursday 17 December 12.30pm - 4.00pm
Friday 18 December 11.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 19 December 11.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 20 December 12.30pm - 4.00pm
Monday 21 December 11.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday 22 December 11.00am - 4.00pm
Wednesday 23 December 11.00am - 4.00pm

There will also be a trial run of the horse tram at Ferrymead (in the township) on Wednesday 9 December, commencing at 1.45pm.

Next work party

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday 19 December 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.

From around the Park

ALAN ROI reports

MURRAY HAS NOW completed the raising of the overhead from the Square Shelter through to Truscotts Road. The last bracket arm went up on 20 November. Mark Blanchard and I assisted him.

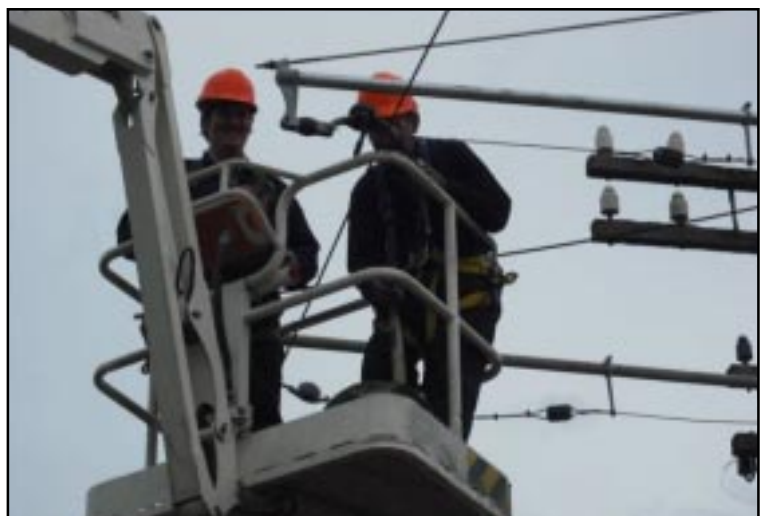
We are having a major clean-up in the trolleybus shed. The front room upstairs has a rare commodity—space! Can a special thanks go out to Trevor Craib, John Harris Stuart Hobbs and Lloyd Williams who have all contributed help.

Dunedin 79 and Christchurch 210 have both been COF'd in the last month. Both passed with flying colours. Valiant Dave is continuing with the panel work on this bus.

Brian (Peanut) Andrew is repainting the front and back (outside) of the trolleybus shed.

The bogies for 26 are about ready to go under the car.

Mike Lawson has fitted a new ashpan to the Kitson. It has passed the static annual survey examination and by the time you read this Ian Fanshawe should have done the in-steam test.



Top: bird's eye view of the loop at Ferrymead taken from the cherry picker during the raising of the overhead.
Above: Murray Sanders and Mark Blanchard working on the raising of the overhead.
Upper left: The trolleybus shed receiving a coat of paint.
Lower left: This one is for Stuart Hobbs' wife. How often does she see him on his knees using a vacuum cleaner. This was taken during the recent trolleybus shed cleanup.

Photos: Alan Roi



Congratulations Crich!

IN JUNE THIS YEAR, it was just 50 years since the formation in England of the National Tramway Museum at Crich, Derbyshire. The museum was founded by the Light Railway Transport League which later became the Tramway Museum Society.

The story of the museum's development was interestingly told in the June issue of *Old Glory* magazine. It covers the story from the earliest days when a group of

dedicated enthusiasts set out to raise the £10 needed to save a Southampton tramcar from going to the scrap yard. The move to the Crich site began in 1959 and the site was purchased in 1961. Today the museum is home to some 60 trams, many restored from use as chicken sheds and farm buildings. (Sound familiar?)

Thanks to MIKE KERR for drawing this to our attention and congratulations to the TMS for its tremendous achievements.

New acquisitions visited

GRAEME BELWORTHY was there

ON SUNDAY 8 November a group of about 20 young and the not so young spent the day enjoying a trip on Society bus 510 travelling around South Canterbury viewing some of the recently acquired tram bodies which are some of the last remaining Christchurch trams still available to the Society.

Some of the trams are past being restored but have parts which can be used on other projects. It is hoped to leave the bodies that are intended for restoration in situ until we have suitable covered storage for them.

We have had two working trips in the past six months to do some preventive maintenance on a couple of the trams. It is intended to have other trips to do more preventive work as well as remove parts from other bodies. Keep an eye on *Tracts*. These trips will be advertised.

The attached photo was taken outside Yank 11 at Mayfield.



Photo: Graeme Belworthy

Sumner's "Coronation Memorial" – or was it?

DAVE HINMAN recently received a letter from Mrs Topsy Rule QSM, Hon Secretary of the Sumner - Redcliffs Historical Society (Inc), writing in response to the *Star* article reproduced on page 4 of our November issue about the shunting mishap at Sumner. Mrs Rule writes:

Recently I was handed a copy of your November newsletter which I read with great interest.

On Page 4, there is an article from the Christchurch Star of 15 January 1903. It mentions the Coronation Memorial. I have always known this as the Boer War Memorial and today it stands at Cave Rock. It was in the centre of the original World War 1 Peace Memorial, which extended further east along the Sumner Beach. The eastern part was demolished in 1942 when a tank trap was built along the Sumner foreshore.

We are aware it was shifted from its site which in the photo shows as being on the footpath outside the car park between the present Coffee Café and Ruptured Duck restaurant cnr. Marriner Street and Wakefield Avenue.

The Council notes said it was moved for road widening which may have followed the incident you have written about. It was taken to Sumner Gasworks where a drinking fountain was installed (unfortunately it does not work today).

Thank you so much for your interesting reading.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs M Rule,
Hon. Secretary.*

English visitors entertained



Over the weekend of 31 October and 1 November we hosted five tram and trolleybus enthusiasts from England and one from Australia. On Saturday and Sunday we entertained them with trolleybus and tram running. On Saturday night we had a delightful meal at the Speights Ale House. David Pearson showed us some slides of action at the EATM. On the Sunday night our guests dined on the Restaurant Tram. On Monday the two Davids headed back to England. The others returned to the tram barn on the Monday night to meet more of our folk and enjoy some night tram running. The photo shows from left: Michael Russell, former editor of the Trolleybus Magazine from Reading; Graham Bilbé, Chairman at the Sandtoft Trolleybus Museum; David Pearson and David Lawrence from the East Anglia Transport Museum at Carlton Colville; Alan Murray from Horsham; Dave Hinman (no explanation needed); Stephen Oliver from Victoria, Australia; Alan Roi and Dale Glendinning.

Notes and photo: Alan Roi

“Electric Christmas” enjoyed by all

The last major weekend event for the year was held at Ferrymead on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November. Despite a cold and damp Saturday, there was quite a reasonable attendance and on the Sunday when things were a little drier, quite a few people came to enjoy the fun. The Society's trams and trolleybuses plied for trade and it was particularly good to see 210 earning her keep carrying passengers.

A major feature was the appearance of double decker No 26 which emerged from the tram barn under her own power and sat on display by the railway station. A full opening ceremony is planned for this tram on 23 January (see details on front page).

As well as trams and trolleybuses there were electric cars, electric motorbikes and electrically assisted push bikes. It was interesting that the

cars, which were ordinary petrol or diesel vehicles with their original engines replaced with batteries and electric motors, had all been converted by individual enthusiasts, yet all were done to a highly professional standard. There was no hint of the “back yard” mechanic.

On the railway, all trains were electric, with Eo3 and Ec7 sharing the hauling of the trains. Hopefully there will be more occasions of this type.



Double decker tram No 26 on display next to the railway station with another veteran, Eo 3.

Photo: Dave Hansen

Tram heating in Dunedin



Many people will tell you that trams in Dunedin were never heated but this picture shows that to be totally untrue. This tram, shown here in retirement, displays evidence of cosy heating that kept the passengers warm on even the bleakest of days. It was the conductor's job to pick up the supplies of wood and coal at the end of each run and to keep the fire stoked. The coal was stored in the rear compartment. The hooks on the end of the tram, the remains of which are still visible, were used to hang the fire irons and the coal scuttle from. The trams were even equipped with match strikers for use by the conductor when lighting up. At Christmas time when the tram was used as a Santa tram, the chimney came in useful for the delivery of toys.

Photo: Russell Grigg senior