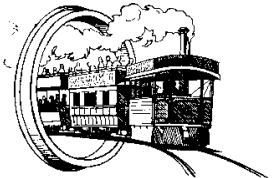


Ferrymead Tram Tracts

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



October 2009

Our man in the UK



Alex Hunter has got away on his big OE in the UK. Here he is at the quaintly named Bluebell Railway near Brighton. He has also sent photos of a railway excursion departing from King's Cross to York. According to Alex it "was an interesting experience as the staff weren't too happy about people taking photos on the platform, but me being a kiwi I just did so anyway!" Good on yer, mate.

Photo supplied by Murray Sanders

Powerhouse cleanup

AS REPORTED last month much of the Powerhouse project equipment stored in the line of the back leg of the CRS triangle was moved to allow the CRS to start track laying.



Photo: Alan Roi

John Shanks and Trevor Craib at work.

Track work

KEN HENDERSON reports that the work day on 19 September was successful with six sleepers in the Gisborne point being replaced thanks to help from Kirk and Stephen. There are still another ten to go and the sleepers get bigger.

Ces has been nursing a sore leg since stepping between sleepers on the Truscotts Bridge but says he will be back despite the medical centre asking when he is going to retire.

COMING EVENTS

DOUBLE BILL

This month's programme looks

interesting with

**a presentation on the
National Railway
Museum**

followed by

**a selection of Graeme
Clephane's videos.**

See interesting footage of the building of Designline's electric buses, the original promotional video for the City

Tramway and much more.

**This promises to be
a great evening!**

Mark the calendar now.

Wednesday 21 October

7.45 pm

Lions Building, Ferrymead

(Enter Gate A)

Supper provided

(\$2 donation).

New book launched

We have just received copies of Hugh Ballment's book *Tram Images of a Journey through Australia and New Zealand—1950s* coloured pics of trams from all the systems—many never previously published.

THS will be retailing them and they will also be available through the City Tramway Tram Station shop, Cathedral Junction—Price \$50 inc. GST.

Next work party

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday 17 October 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.

Pub Charity grant received

TREASURER STEPHEN TAYLOR reports that the THS has recently been awarded a most generous grant from Pub Charity for \$3,486 for the cost of manufacturing brackets to allow the rafters in Tram Barn 2 to be altered so that the overhead there can be raised to allow No 26 to be stored there. The engineering work for the design of the brackets was undertaken free of charge by Brian Spense of BLS Consulting Ltd, Kaiapoi to whom we offer our grateful thanks.

We have actually ordered two sizes of bracket—a wider one to go over the pit road that will take two sets of overhead lines to allow trolleybuses to also be safely powered from the overhead into Tram Barn 2 for servicing over the pit.

The brackets are being installed by Murray Sanders.



Above: the new brackets ready for fitting.

Top right: the overhead troughing before modification. The troughing is mounted on the cross beam.

Middle: one of the new brackets in position. The section of the cross beam under the bracket has yet to be removed.

Right: raising one of the brackets using the Bedford tower wagon.

Photos: Stephen Taylor



Getting ready for 26

THE EXTRA HEIGHT of tram No 26 has meant that the overhead has had to be raised in many places. This in turn has meant that new and longer poles have had to be installed to replace the old hardwood poles that were reaching the end of their lives anyway (they have been there for over 30 years and were second hand when they were put in).

The pole replacement programme has also involved the P&T Society, mostly in the person of Dave Hansen, who has since April, been transferring the telephone wires to the new poles. It is planned to have the job completed by November. This has been a long job and congratulations and thanks are due to Dave and his team.



Top: a view we don't often get to see: details of the insulator and the joins in the wire.

Above: the two P&T Society's Bedford trucks prove useful. The four ladders around the pole ensure that, should the old pole snap, the pole won't fall.

Photos: Dave Hansen

Scrap wanted

TREVOR CRAIB is always on the lookout for scrap metal. He'll take anything—except complete cars (no doubt he's accept one in good working order but not as scrap).

Old household appliances,

metal both ferrous and nonferrous are welcome.

So bring that old metal down to Ferrymead and let it be used to help the finances of your favourite cause.

Split points?



Can anybody supply information on the above picture from an unknown photographer which shows a Sumner bound Brill with two trailers emerging from the Causeway. This is where the double track begins and it would appear that the tram has split the points, the front bogie going up the right hand track. Note the second Brill in the rear which is presumably about to drag the trailers out of the way. Were the buses in the background there to ferry the stranded passengers to their destinations, and if so, why were they pointing the wrong way?

And speaking of mishaps on the Sumner line...

TREVOR CRAIB has been researching old newspapers and come up with some interesting stories

From the Christchurch Star, 19 December 1898

An accident of a rather startling nature occurred at the intersections of High, Manchester, and Lichfield Streets, Christchurch, about 5.30 pm on Monday. One of the spar [sic] wires, that held up the tramway trolley wires fell, and a cabman drove over it, although the constable on duty at the spot told him it was probably alive. No sooner (says a Press Association telegram) had the cab horse stepped upon the wire than it fell writhing to the ground. The constable jerked the reins and got the animal off the wire, sustaining a nasty shock himself. The horse recovered quickly from the shock. The constable had difficulty in keeping the idly curious

away from the wire, but the break was soon mended.

From the Otago Daily Times, 2 December 1908

An accident occurred at Sumner this morning by which a lad named Ernest Bowron, aged fifteen years, a son of Mr G. Bowron, of the Woolston Tannery, lost his life. It appears that the boy, who was a pupil at the Warwick House School, had been in the habit of coming up to town for the past two years by the tram leaving Sumner at 8.15 a.m. This morning the tram had just started from Watson's Store when the boy came up from the beach, and he endeavoured to get on the front of the last car, just as the tram was going round the curve in front of the Sumner Hotel. By some

means he missed his footing on the step, and after being dragged along for a few yards got under the wheels, which passed over his thighs. Messrs Phillips and Watson immediately attended to the sufferer, and the ambulance stretcher was procured for his conveyance to town. The stretcher was slung to the roof of the car so as to minimise the vibration as much as possible. Upon arrival in Cathedral Square the engine was shunted to the other end of the car and it was taken to the top of Tuam Street, from where the boy was carried to the hospital. The sufferer was received by Dr Fox the house surgeon, who, from the outset gave no hope of recovery, and the lad died about an hour after his admission. An inquest will be held tomorrow morning.