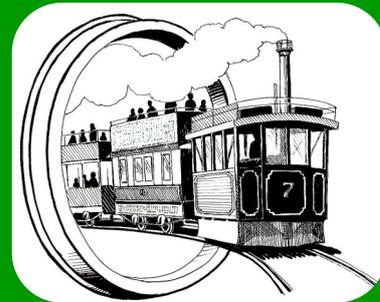


Tracts.



March 2024

The Newsletter of the Tramway Historical Society Incorporated.



Monthly Newsletter of the THS - Editor: Alex Hunter

Contributions welcome. Please send to tracts@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

All contributions must be in by the 23rd of the month. Tracts released for distribution on 1st of following month.

Tracts March 2024

THS Officers and Contact Info.

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Secretary: Evan Batchelor.

E- secretary@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

Treasurer: Stephen Taylor.

E- treasurer@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

Committee: Steve Lea, Callum Brieske, Graeme Belworthy, Alan Roi, Larry Day, Michael Le Ferve, Henry Deer.

Traffic Manager: (Currently Vacant)

Operations Committee Chairman: John Honeybone.

E- operations@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

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AGM date. Week 4 of August 2024

Heritage Tramway Trust.

Chairman: Dave Sanders

E- dave@heritagetrans.org.nz

Secretary: Callum Brieske.

E- callum@heritagetrans.org.nz

Treasurer: Alan Hinman

E - alan@heritagetrans.org.nz

Board Members: Graeme Belworthy, Stephen Taylor, Nick Allen

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Advance Workday Notice.

Saturday 7th April.

The main project to work on is the clean up

The remains of trailer 126.

Please let Alan Hinman know if you can attend.

Many hands make light work.!

alan@heritagetrans.org.nz

Or 0226040894.

Advance notice for April THS Social function.

THS Goals and Planning meeting.

More details in the next issue of Tracts.

Cover Photo: HTT Heritage Craftsman Mike Hobbs busy sanding the roof on Dunedin Horse trailer 18, To allow the roof to be repainted and some other touchups to take place, Makes this job simpler and safer with a good wide scaffolding system.
Photo by the Editor.

President's piece..

Jonathan Day reports.

Hey team

Just a quick summary of what has happened around the Tramway over the last month.

Our new funding committee has met and we are about to apply for our first grant in a while. This grant will be to allow HTT to undertake work on our trailers. This will include new stair cases on the double decker trailers that are starting to show potential signs of structural compromise.

Work on Cranmer is continuing well with the new wall in the archives area complete the focus has shifted back to the theatrette with the remaining existing interior wall lining disappearing by the week. Planning is underway as to what AV and power cabling is needed to go in the walls before we insulated and install the new linings.

In the workshop side the HTT staff are continuing with the workshop upgrades including new screw and small bolt storage. If you haven't seen it yet check it out next time your down, it looks fantastic and will save hours looking for for screws and bolts.

On the bus side things are progressing well, 614 is nearing completion and should be road ready within the next few months. 538 will be heading off for a Certificate of Fitness in the coming days after some adjustments.

Dunedin cruise ship charter work is continuing with March being the last full month and mid April the MAN buses will return to Ferrymead. From there we aim to start advertising for local charter work.

As always with the school holidays coming up Phyllis will be looking for drivers so please put your name forward.

THS March Social Function!

A trip on Christchurch Tramway in Hills Car 24.

Wednesday 28th March at 7pm.

Save the date and further details to come in an email.

Seats are limited to 44 seated, so you must RSVP to Callum Brieske.

callum@heritagetrans.org.nz

Or Alex Hunter phone: 02102205094.

Vacancy:

Traffic Manager for the Ferrymead Tramway.

The traffic manager is responsible for ensuring the day to day operations of the Ferrymead Tramway run smoothly and safely.

The Traffic Manager does not need to hold a tram drivers licence however would be an advantage.

Please send expressions of interest to Jonathan Day at president@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

Duties of the Ferrymead Tramway Traffic Manager:

- Director of Operations.
- Ensuring traffic staff are qualified and competent to carry out their designated duties.
the ops committee will be working with the new traffic manager on a competency program for other duties (maintenance and infrastructure))
- Supervising tram operations and handling reported lapses in procedure by drivers.
 - Issuing THS specific Traffic Notices detailing new procedures.
- Issuing special operating instructions for special events and notifying other officers.
- Organising the crewing of the trams. (Currently handled by Phyllis our Roster Clark)
- Coordinating with the Driver Trainer officer (David Jones) regarding the training of drivers and conductors

Heritage Tramway Trust.

Dave Sanders Reports.

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to this February workshop update.

Another busy month with all the guys back to work and doing a multitude of things to get the workshop ready for what is planning out as another busy year.

From our Workshop Managers February report, there has been some work done:

- The replacement overhead bracket arm has been galvanized, assembled and will be painted before handing over to Jonathan for fitting.
- Coverboards were made to protect access to the traverser live line and HTT staff have assisted the volunteers to get these fitted.
- Work is being carried out on the roof of #18, preparing it for paint and reinstalling the end roof add-boards. In regard the equipment that was installed for city running, we have decided to remove only what is external or can be seen. For future use in the city, that leaves us the option to return the Trailer with minimum work required.
- Don McAra's team are progressing with Cable Car #103. HTT man, Warren Crowe's work is roaring along, with the doors made up and ready to be glued.

And in the workshop:

- Installing the newly purchased Spindle Moulder which has been put in place and is working well. We have decided to keep the old one as they both have some features that are beneficial.
- Continuing to fit other replacement plant as well as carrying out much delayed maintenance on other existing items.
- The Mortiser has been fitted to a new base and serviced. A number of chains, bars and chisel sets have been restored and / or adapted to fit the new machine.
- Tool storage for the Mortiser is being sorted and the Router and spindle moulder cutters have a new home.
- The Dust Extraction system upgrade is progressing well with the new lean-to coming along. The ducting design, fabrication and fitting is coming up.

We now have three punts in the workshop again. These are destined for storage in Tran Barn 3 but will be assessed for condition and repair for the next season before they are put away.

Our Workshop Manager – Graeme Richardson and HTT Treasurer - Alan Hinman have been busy preparing no less than nine Quotes (for the punts) and Estimates for other future work. Our workbook is again looking good with external work due to get started soon. Another busy year.

Graeme and I met the new CEO of Christchurch & Hanmer Attractions, Marty Byrne (we work with Christchurch Attractions as CTL). We showed Marty around our Tram Barn facilities. We wish him well in his new job and look forward to working with him.

As always, contact me directly as you like on 021 423 763. I am generally down there on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Ngā mihi nui



The new Sawdust extractor room beside TBI



The newly constructed Bracket arm for the Village



Trailer 18 in the paint tent with the scaffold around it allowing access to the roof.



Mike Hobbs sanding the roof of 18.

Gas Works Coke Donation.

Editor Writes.

Approximately 18 months ago we launched the Kitson steam tram back into service. We were fortunate to have Margaret Shanks (Wife of the late John Shanks) attend.

After the ceremony Margaret mentioned that at her place there was still a shed out the back with coke in it that John had kept for special occasions.

We suspect it is Dunedin coke from when the society obtained 2 x La wagons of it when the works closed in 1987.

Anyhow recently Alan Hinman and I went along and bagged up around 15 bags. Additionally there was a few bags of 'slack' coal that was also left over.

I must pass on my sincere thanks to Margaret for donating this to the Society, there is no intention to burn it ,as once its gone that's it.

So I would like to keep this set aside for a future display perhaps when the Cramner Interpretation centre is up and running.



McCormack Deering Tractor.

Dave Hansen sent in some photos.

Some time back the ex CTB 1923 McCormack Deering tractor was loaned from the THS collection, to the Society of Rural History based in the Township at Ferrymead.

Dave Hansen has seen the tractor recently and it is making good progress towards running again. The cable operated bucket on the front has been removed for repairs and re-painting and will be put back on at some stage soon.

A great result.



Top: The Tractor in use in the yard at Moorhouse Ave in the 1950's . (THS Collection)

Bottom: the current status of the tractor .

(Dave Hansen)

Track Grease Gun Applicator.

Editor Writes.

The track greaser gun has been overhauled and is back in service, additionally the bucket mounted pump that refills the gun when empty has also had a makeover.

A new grease gun has been purchased for this so there is little mess in undertaking this activity.

To fill the grease gun from empty takes 10-11 pumps of the pump on the bucket.

When using the grease gun on the flangeways, usually about 1 pump per metre is sufficient.

The grease gun will normally live beside the roller door in Trambarn 1.

Many thanks to the HTT for supplying a new grease gun.

Any Questions just contact Alex H , Alan Hinman or Ken Henderson, Many thanks.



Truscotts Substation Rectifier Upgrade.

Murray Sanders writes.

Murray Sanders and Wayne Fisher have been engaged in sorting the interface wiring, which will enable the Wellington solid state rectifier to operate from the existing controls and connect to the existing DC switchboard.

There are 3 voltages required for the control systems; 230v, 110v and 50v.



Wayne Fisher making connections in the rectifier cabinet.

Bus Department update.

Philip Murphy writes from Dunedin.

We are 3/4 of the way through the cruise ship season.

In Dunedin the last week in February is busy, with train shuttles each day Monday thru to Friday.

MAN 612 is back in action, after having gear issues fixed. Seen here waiting to be called to the Railway Station to collect passengers for the return trip back to their ship.

With the heavy vehicle compliance people on the prowl, OHBS & THS drivers are being asked to be extra vigilant in their daily bus checks



MAN 612 in between duties in Dunedin on a cruise ship passenger transfer shift.

Ffestiniog Travel Group Visit.

Editor Writes.

9 months ago we were approached by a local travel agent to ask if we could provide a trip behind the Kitson for an overseas travel group from the UK.

It turned out to be part of a 26 day tour of NZ by Ffestiniog Travel Ltd based in Tremadog in Wales, UK.

Anyhow on Tuesday 13th February the group of 22 arrived, and were hosted first by the members of the Canterbury Railway Society, they had a ride behind steam loco F13, then were taken for tours of the railway workshops and through the carriage sheds.

Next up we took them for a ride behind the Kitson and trailers from Moorhouse Station to the Trambarn end and return.

Later that afternoon they had chartered the train on the Weka Pass Railway.

We hope to hear of another visit in 2025.



Top: Kitson all cleaned up heading for the township.

Middle: The group onboard heading for the Trambarn end.

Bottom Left: The Crew for the occasion, Alex H conductor and Callum B and Steve L, driver and fireman.

Bottom Right: Tour leader Alan Norton directs the group onto the next activity.

Photos by the Editor.



Canterbury Railway Soc Visit the THS.

Editor Writes and Glen Anthony photos.

On Thursday 22nd February, 30 members of the CRS came to visit the THS facilities and were shown around the facilities,

They were taken for a ride on 26 to the village and walked down to the Trolleybus barn and then returned to the tram barns for the closure of the visit, all in attendance enjoyed themselves.

A disappointing detail was the poor turnout of THS members, as only 4 turned up to show the group around, Social functions in the future need to have better support.



Top Photo: Don McAra giving a talk on the progress of the cable car 103.

Middle photos : The CRS looking through tram barns 2 and 3.

Bottom Photo: DD26 out on the track with David Maciulaitis having a try at the controls.



Keep Fit For Men Group Visit.

David Jones Writes.

On Thursday 8 February the tramway received a visit from the Keep Fit For Men group from Nelson. The leader of the group was Michael Boyton, a member of the THS and bus operator in the Nelson region. Ken Henderson and David Jones hosted the group on double-decker No 26 and gave them a tour of the tram barns. The group was most interested in how both the Society's trams and the city trams are restored and maintained. Of particular interest was the work being done on the cable car and led by Don McAra. For our efforts the KFFM group and Michael personally made very generous donations towards the upkeep and restoration of our trams.



The group onboard DD26 Photo Michael Boyton.

Did you know.. By Ken Henderson.

The Origin Of Our Magazine Tracts

Many of our older members will remember the days before our newsletter was published and known as Ferrymead Tramway Tracts.

Dave Hinman the first editor supplied the following information

“To the best of my memory, the publication of Tracts commenced in the late 1970s, and I was the original editor. We started Tracts because the then New Zealand Societies’ magazine, Tramway Topics, was published quite infrequently and what we were looking for was a monthly newsletter which was able to provide much more frequent information about our Society’s activities.

We called it “Tracts”, because somewhere in Australia I think, there was a newsletter called” Tram Tracks”, and ours was a bit of a play on words. (The Oxford dictionary defines a tract as “ a short treatise or discourse or pamphlet especially on religious

subject. Ken)

The early copies were usually only one or two pages, being enlarged to the ten or more pages after the demise of Tramway Topics in about 2015.

I think the early copies, perhaps going right back to the very first, still exist, and they are in trailer No. 202.”

I know that the late Joe Pickering was editor for many years followed by Alistair Cross and then by Alex Hunter with help last year from Stephen Taylor. Well done all of you. Of course before Email was common among our members it was posted out which of course has become expensive so the majority receive it by email these days and this also allows it to be sent in full colour. Approximately 220 copies go out for each issue by e-mail and about 20 copies are still posted (in black and white). Also a reminder that the last 12 months issues of Tracts can generally be found on the Society’s web site .

Around the Depot

Ken Henderson sent in some photos.

Some recent progress around the depot,

The top photo shows the newly shingled area outside the trambarn, this was a grass area but now mower access has become difficult, so the decision was made to put weed mat down and some shingle that we can just maintain with weedspray.

The Bottom photo shows Wayne Fisher on the Ride on mower alongside the Paddock loop, this has been a worthy acquisition and has recently had a new battery fitted,

Many thanks to Wayne for the donation for the new battery.



Drivers Tip By David Jones.

When wrong way running is being used, extreme caution needs to be taken traversing the facing point into the Birthday Loop in front of the Children's Park and again when traversing the facing point at the platform in front of the Church.

NOTE: Extreme caution in this situation means "VERY SLOW".

An everyday scene..

This month sees a Scene that is much changed, This is a painting by Stephen Taylor's father, Les Taylor. Painted in 1948, he was a student at Canterbury University's Art School in when he painted this scene.

This is on the Colombo St bridge looking south just beside the current Town Hall.

Many thanks to Stephen for sharing this.

