

# Ferrymead Tram Tracts

Newsletter of the  
Tramway Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1126  
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## NEW COMPRESSOR SURGES INTO LIFE



**Murray Sanders** reports on the construction of the new shed housing our 'new' compressor

Thanks to the inspiration, planning and supervision of Graeme Richardson, we now have a modern 22kW compressor installed with a surfeit of compressed air available for power tools and the spray paint tent.

The compressor was purchased second-hand several months ago and to reduce the noise level, a small out-building has been constructed on a concrete slab, behind the main switchboard. So, the old noisy machine under the stairs will be redundant. There will be a remote start switch in the workshop. The new compressor will be used whenever air is required, since it needs to be run regularly.

Power is supplied by underground cables and the compressed air piped overhead the short distance to the supply line in the tram barn. Those members who assisted, as well as Graeme, included John Atkinson, Brian Fairbrass, Dave Carr, Brian Andrew, and others helped with the concrete. I supervised the electric power which includes light and power points.



### Tram 24 restoration 'seats' ahead!

Bad humour (!) aside, Stephen and his team working on "Hills" car 24 continue to make progress with the reconstruction of the end saloon body. One of the most 'recent' additions are the seat bases, which were duly photographed in August. Also shown is one of the 'L' pieces against the saloon bulkhead and which sit underneath the seats themselves. This month there wasn't a report on how 24's restoration is proceeding, but hopefully there will be one in next month's *Tracts* to explain the work done since last reported.

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## President's Piece—Graeme Belsworthy



The plans for the 2016 COTMA Conference is on-going and things are falling into place. I will keep you up to date as matters are wrapped up.

The last of the trams to be returned to the city, Melbourne 244, was moved into the paint booth on Saturday 12 September. This is another step on the journey to re-

enter service. The new compressor is now in operation and what a difference to the noise level in Tram Barn 1.

The next big job around the site will be another section of the traverser wall being repaired. There is also an on-going rearranging of where vehicles are stored in the entire barn to maximise how we use the area we have.

No Goals or Projects were reviewed during the August Management meeting due to it being the night before

the AGM and needing several items closed off before then. The AGM was held on August 19<sup>th</sup> and attended by about 30 members. The incumbent committee was re-elected with the exception of Brian Ericson who did not stand for re-election; Sandra Cron, who was co-opted on to the committee last year was elected this year. We are always on the lookout for new committee members as is the Heritage Tramways Trust—if anyone is interested or knows someone who might be, please contact me.

A very generous donation has been received towards the new Bus Shed following the Captains of Industry evening we held recently. Another strategy for funding has been suggested and will be followed up in the next few days. Watch this space...

That's about all the news I have at this point.

Cheers, **Graeme**

## Alastair's Angle—Alastair Cross



After Joe Pickering announced his decision to retire from his second stint in the editor's chair at *Tracts* earlier this year, I decided to put my hand up as Joe's successor, a role which took responsibility for at the end of August when Joe produced his final edition of *Tracts*.

There's no doubt that Joe, and the others before him, have done a

fantastic job with putting *Tracts* together and getting it out to our members via 'snail mail' or email, and I'm looking forward to continuing that work myself.

For those who aren't familiar where I fit into the scheme of things, I have been volunteering at Ferrymead with the Society since late 2012 as a conductor, in and around my studies in History at the University of Canterbury and working at a well-known fast food chain in Rangiora. I've been interested in railways since childhood, but lately

have discovered interests in other forms of transport including trams and buses (thanks to Allan Harbrow!) As a university intern, I have also been helping out—to some extent—with the restoration of "Hills" car 24 by recording the restoration work Stephen and his team are carrying out on it.

Enough about me! Since it was decided that I was going to succeed Joe as editor of *Tracts*, I have been working on creating a new look for our familiar magazine at Joe's suggestion. This won't quite be the final look—that will be some time off—this version only being a quick one at that too, dictated by university studies and a change of address. So please bear with me while I fine-tune your new *Tracts*, and if there's anything that needs changing, I'd be happy to hear from you!

Cheers, **Alastair**



# Meetings and Notices

## General Meeting

The Society's next General Meeting will be held on 21 October 2015 in the Ferrymead Lions Building, starting at 7:30pm. This month's keynote speaker will be Alex Hunter, who will be talking to us about his experiences in Wales with particular reference to the preserved Ffestiniog Railway and the time he spent working there. Supper will be provided and a \$2.00 donation will be requested.

## Ferrymead 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Labour Weekend 2015

Over the Sunday and Monday of Labour Weekend 2015 (25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October), Ferrymead Heritage Park will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—watch out for the publicity and encourage your friends and family to come and spend some time at Ferrymead where lots will be happening.

As part of the celebrations, Ferrymead Society members and their partners are invited to attend a special invitation-only anniversary function in the Friendly Societies Lodge Hall at 11:00am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Those planning to attend must RSVP to Jane Armstrong at Ferrymead Heritage Park; a copy of the official invitation including Jane's details is included with this month's issue of *Tracts*.

Also during Labour Weekend, the Friends of Ferrymead will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Curragh House (ex-104 Holly Rd) on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October. As part of this, the Friends are trying to contact Park Society members, both past and present, who have been involved with Curragh House since its arrival in 1972. If you are one of those and haven't received an invitation yet, please contact the Friends via their email, [friendsofferrymead@xtra.co.nz](mailto:friendsofferrymead@xtra.co.nz).

As our contribution to the Anniversary celebrations, the THS will be running its trams and trolley-buses, and are also planning to have our ex-London double-decker bus, RT3132, in service pending the completion of Certification of Fitness Repairs. There are also plans to have a bookstall selling both THS and tramway-related publications.



### **Buses on the move—Hello Dunedin No. 1**

Another interesting visitor which arrived at Ferrymead recently is Dunedin trolley bus No. 1, ex-Wellington Tramway Museum and Foxton Trolleybus Museum before that. It was sold to the Otago Heritage Bus Society in 2011, and is in storage at Ferrymead where was duly photographed in August waiting to go home in the company of Christchurch buses MAN 612 and AEC 510. (*Editor's note—The original version of this article stated that Dunedin No. 1 had been loaned to the THS; after being corrected by Society members, it was duly amended as shown here!*)

# City Tramway Update—Christchurch City Council

## TRAM EXTENSION (FUTURE) UPDATE - IT'S TIME FOR MORE SUBMISSIONS!

As reported in the April issue of Tracts, the Council's Draft 10 year Long Term Plan did not make any provision for funding further stages of the previously approved tram extension beyond the present interim terminus at Manchester/High/Lichfield Streets. The THS was one of a number of submitters to the Council's Long Term Plan seeking provision in the plan for further funding for later stages of the tram extension and Don McAra ably represented the Society at the hearing of submissions. Don urged firstly that it made sense to complete the laying of the rails in the Lichfield/Poplar/Tuam Street area to a revised plan taking account of the soon to be one-way (east bound) Tuam Street, while those roads are being rebuilt. Secondly he submitted that over the next few years funding should be reinstated to allow for the eventual Stage 2 extension to CPIT and the Cathedral in Barbadoes Street to get under way. Similar submissions had been made by others, including some THS members.

The Council's Long Term Plan was approved at the end of June but it was only on 1 September that submitters received written advice from the Office of the Mayor setting out agreed changes to the plan, with NO mention being made of the tram. It did say that *"a full review of the capital programme will be completed in time for the 2016/17 Annual Plan."* The Society and other interested parties will need to consider making further submissions to the Annual Plan in future years.

Right now there is another opportunity for making submissions on another matter affecting the tram. The Council has just announced further roading changes under the "Accessible City" programme of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. This time it is about improvements to St Asaph Street, including better provision for cycling. This mostly one way (west bound) street until now has had a short "contra flow" (eastwards) lane from Madras Street leading to Ferry Road, and it is proposed to remove this to allow for a separated two way cycleway on the south side. The previously planned and approved tram extension (Stage 2) was to have the tram heading east along the contra flow lane into Ferry Road and then returning west either along Ferry Road and St Asaph Street, or through the CPIT, to High Street as shown in the following diagrams. The impact on the future tram extension of the new



plan as currently proposed is that the tram is now effectively prevented from going any further east beyond High Street, unless it was to go in the reverse direction through CPIT to that previously planned and agreed. This is now unlikely to happen as CPIT have revised their plans and no longer wish to have the tram traversing their property. We have been advised that it may be possible to adjust the plans to allow for a future tram corridor. However if there is a desire to "future proof" for this, then submissions should be made to this draft concept plan.

**The consultation on the concept designs started on September 17 and closes at 5pm on Thursday 8 October,** and the Society is looking to make a submission on the matter. Society members are once again invited to also put in their own submissions. There is more information on the Council website, including links to the downloadable public information leaflet which includes plans etc. and advice of community drop in sessions now under way. See: <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/the-council/have-your-say/whats-happening-now/consultations/>

## In Memoriam

### Philip Wright

**15-11-1943 - 2-08-2015**

Philip Wright was a colourful and somewhat eccentric personality who for more than 40 years has been the often "hard to get along with" near neighbour of the Tramway Historical Society and Ferrymead Heritage Park. He was devoted to, but struggled to maintain, his own "Ferrymead" which he often claimed (with some justification) to be genuine heritage as against the created heritage of the Park. Although we were destined to disagree, and lock horns on some matters (in particular tram operation in the reserve adjacent to his beloved house) Philip did have a genuine interest in, passion for and knowledge of many facets of history and, as recalled at his recent memorial service, was for example an avid collector of old clocks.

Phillip was the son of Betty and Albion Wright, his father well known in Christchurch as the proprietor of the Pegasus Press in Oxford Terrace (now the Pegasus Arms tavern) and their latter home was one of the historic Hurst Seagar houses on Kinsey Terrace, (inherited by

Philip) and they also owned a vintage yacht. Phillip was always interested in horticulture and it was with help of his parents that he leased, then purchased the Ferrymead house and nursery property in 1972.

There were around 50 friends, family and acquaintances at his memorial service, held on 8 September at the Ferry Park Chapel, Ferry Road. Tributes and anecdotes of his quite interesting and somewhat unusual life came from a cross section of people, including his only sister Karin, who lives in Melbourne. One of Karin's comments was that she had been concerned that Philip would have been quite lonely, but it was apparent from the turnout and stories told that this was not the case. All of us who attended I think learnt things about Philip of which we had no previous knowledge. Philip was 71 and had been unwell for some time.

*Dave Hinman - acquaintance since the early 1970s*

## Call for Motormen—Can you help?

Lately we have been short of motormen at Ferrymead—which has put pressure on our roster organiser, John Harris, to find motormen who are available to come down for the day and drive the trams. Because so few motormen are available at any time, John has resorted to covering these days himself in order to keep the trams running.

If you happen to find yourself with some spare time to hand and there is a need for motormen, could you PLEASE consider putting your name on the roster to help, even if it's only one day every couple of months. As the old maxim goes, every little bit helps!



### Coming soon to the City Tramway— Melbourne 244

As noted earlier by Graeme Belsworthy, stalwart city tram, ex-Melbourne W2-class No. 244 will shortly to return to the central city following a comprehensive overhaul and repaint. By the time you read this issue of *Tracts*, Graeme Richardson and his team will have most likely finished (or be close to finishing) the repainting of No. 244, which brings the return of this tram to city service just that little bit closer.

*(By the way, this isn't the painting work—this is Graeme R. gluing up splits in the body in August.)*





*You are cordially invited to...*



## Ferrymead's 50th Anniversary Celebrations



**11.00am, Sunday 25th October 2015 (Labour Weekend).  
Friendly Societies Lodge Hall, Ferrymead Heritage Park.**

Come and join us as we celebrate Ferrymead Heritage Park's 50th birthday. There will be an introduction, speeches and then followed by the cutting of a ribbon (to welcome in the next 50 years). After this there will be refreshments served in the Friendly Societies Lodge Hall.



Please R.S.V.P. Jane Armstrong, [info@ferrymead.org.nz](mailto:info@ferrymead.org.nz), ph 03) 384-1970  
(for catering numbers)

**Please print and bring this invitation to allow you and your partner admission into Ferrymead Heritage Park.**