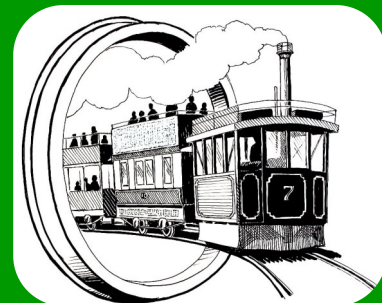


FERRYMEAD

Tram Tracts



The Journal of the Tramway Historical Society

Issue 28—September 2018



New President Elected

Stephen Taylor now in the driving seat

AGM Report

News from the 2018 Society AGM

Vale—Graeme Clephane

Farewell to a master cameraman and Society stalwart

President's Piece—Stephen Taylor



As I am writing this, I am now on my 11th day since being “elevated” to the position of President at the Society’s August AGM. During that 11 day period, there has not been a lot new to report with activities continuing much as usual – which is as it should be!

Firstly, the AGM: this was well attended by almost 30 members of the Society, and I am pleased to say that we now have

a full slate of seven management committee members. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new committee members – Alastair Cross, Larry Day, Steve Lea and Dave Sanders – and thank the returning committee members and Society officers who continued on in their roles.

But, as was signalled by Graeme Belworthy, he stood down from the role of President at the AGM after 12 years in that role. He has now moved to the position of Immediate Past President and as such remains on the Management Committee. As a partial acknowledgement of his many years of service, Graeme was awarded Life Membership of the Society by the AGM.

Dave Rushworth has also stood down from the position of Vice President – Administration and also the Society’s Management Committee. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dave for many years of service. As there were no nominations for the role of Vice President – Administration, this role is currently vacant.

Also, the Society currently has a vacancy for the position of Treasurer as this role was also left vacant by my assuming the President’s role. However, I will continue in this role as acting Treasurer. If anyone is interested in the role, they contact me – or any other Society officer. But I would suggest that any prospective Treasurer attend a few Management Committee meetings to see

what the role involves before committing to the role.

Moving forwards, the Society is currently continuing to work on a number of projects. In particular, with the resource consent through, planning for the Diesel Bus Shed is underway and we are putting together a project plan and also a funding plan to allow this project to progress. We also expect there will be plenty of opportunities for members to be further involved with various aspects of this project.

Another event coming up, with a number of members booked to attend, is the biennial COTMA conference – being held in Perth this year starting in mid-September. We expect a full report-back on the conference and related activities at a future Social general meeting event – expected to be in October. And speaking of the Social general meetings, one thing I am going to try and institute for these meetings is a discussion/Q&A session at each meeting so members can get a better understanding of current issues, activities and projects of the Society.

And there is also plenty of scope for more member involvement in the day-to-day operation of the Society – particularly the operation of the Ferrymead tramway – and other Society projects. In particular, we appear to be having ongoing issues in obtaining a full driving roster. Some ideas on this were discussed at the AGM, and I expect that this issue to be taken up by the Tramway Operations Committee.

This is probably enough for now – I have already written more than I expected to, but I would request that if anyone wants to get in touch – with ideas, suggestions, comments or gripes – they can contact me by e-mail at president@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz, by writing to me at the Society’s postal address, calling me on my mobile 027-5368510, or even speaking to me face-to-face. (And I am generally at the Tram Barn for most of Saturday afternoons and all-too-frequently at other times too).

—Stephen

Alastair's Angle—Alastair Cross



Welcome to another issue of *Tracts*. Winter is all but done, and no doubt most of us are looking forward to some more temperate weather.

The Society’s AGM was held last month and as indicated, former President Graeme Belworthy stepped down to be succeeded by Stephen. Since he’s already covered this in his President’s

Piece, I won’t say any more than that other than to say that the Management Committee has received several new members, including yours truly. There are of course still some vacancies which need to be filled, and of course we welcome any who are interested and want to help. It’s not as daunting as it sounds, believe me!

Well, that’s it from me this month. ‘Till next time!

Cheers,

Alastair

Notices

WORK DAY

Our monthly work day will be held on Saturday 15 September. All are welcome, even if only for part of the day. Note: that as Alan Roi will be away at COTMA there will be no catered lunch this month - so please "BYOL" .

MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETING

There will be no Social Meeting this month due to the usual mid-month date conflicting with the 2018 COTMA Conference, being held this year in Perth. There will be a Social Meeting next month which will feature a report on the COTMA Conference.



ABOVE: Work has begun on restoring the Society's trolleybus loop to full operation after it was taken out of service earlier this year due to deferred maintenance and safety concerns. Larry and Johnathan Day were photographed sometime late last month or earlier this month (the date was not provided) using the Society's Bedford tower wagon to carry out the first piece of maintenance work on the overhead—some repairs to the overhead switch at the rear of the Trolleybus Shed. Further work will follow as time and funding allows.

Photo: Alan Roi.

Tram Driving Tips with David Jones

When carrying out the checks on the running sheet it is important to check that the life guards are clear of the track at each end of the tramcar. Should a life guard be activated by an obstruction on or near the track, the tram must be stopped immediately and the life guard reset. To reset the life guard you must bear down with your foot on the pedal which will have risen from the motorman's platform floor – 22 and 236. On Christchurch trams you must lift the lowered guard by hand from outside the tram until it clicks back into place, there is no internal reset pedal – 1 and 26. If you are uncertain as to how to do this, ask someone to show you. Trams must never be driven with life guards in the lowered position. Your ears should tell you if a life guard has been lowered.

AGM 2018

The Society's AGM for 2018 was held on 15 August in the Youth Heritage Trust Building at Ferrymead Heritage Park. As previously stated elsewhere, Graeme Belworthy stepped down from the position of President, and was succeeded by former Treasurer, Stephen Taylor. As no offers were received to fill the Treasurer's position, Stephen has agreed to fill this position in the interim. As thanks for Graeme's twelve-year tenure as President, he was voted Life Membership and presented with a small chaise made by Colin Loach and upholstered with fabric left over from the contract restoration of Roslyn electric tram No. 1.

A further group of three new Committee members were also elected on the evening, joining Stephen and Dave Hinman who remains as Society Secretary. Johnathan Day was elected to the post of Vice President—Operations, while Alastair Cross, Sandra Cron, Larry Day, Steve Lea, Don McAra, Alan Roi and Dave Sanders were elected to form the Management Committee. There were no nominations for the positions of Treasurer or Vice President—Administration and these posts remain to be filled.

During the course of the evening, it was discussed that the Christchurch Tramway are seeking to lease a further three trams by 2020 to meet their needs, and it was raised that Christchurch 'Hills' car 24 was being made available for offer. This announcement was met with some disappointment; HTT representative Murray Hobbs was able to mollify those members and pointed out that leasing 24 to the Christchurch Tramway not only opened the way to restoring other trams, but offers a possibility where trams could be 'swapped-out' to keep the running fleets in both the city and at Ferrymead 'fresh'.

Also tabled at the meeting was a proposal by Alastair Cross to consider restoring Roslyn electric tram No. 3 to running order. Borne out of a desire to see the second-oldest electric tram in New Zealand running again, and the need for a small, enclosed tram at Ferrymead, Alastair's proposal to 'give serious consideration to the restoration of Roslyn No. 3' was duly carried, with the first step to this to be the creation of a Conservation Report. When the restoration will take place has not yet been defined, however, with several other projects still to be completed at the present time

Two further updates were also presented on the new Diesel Bus Shed, and the overhaul of the trolleybus loop. With representative examples of buses from each of the major post-1931 trolleybus networks in New Zealand, the Society is now considering whether to rebrand the trolleybus collection as the National Trolleybus Museum.

ROSLYN 95 REPAINT

Following its return to the Tram Barns last month, Roslyn grip tram 95 has had its paint touched up and a two-pack protective clear coating applied. This involved masking off many parts of the grip tram including the windows and gripman's well, and removal of the cabin doors which were done separately (*see photo below*).

It had been hoped that Roslyn 95 would have returned to Dunedin on Saturday, 8 September but due to a lack of suitable transport, it will remain at Ferrymead for the time being. No. 95 is now on display in Tram Barn 1 for now, where visitors are welcome to come and view it.

www.trainshow.co.nz

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WE NEED HELP to man our stall and promote Ferrymead.

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BELOW: Don McAra masks up Roslyn grip tram No. 95 in preparation for clear coating. Photo: Don McAra.



Vale—Graeme Clephane



The Society was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Society member and professional cameraman, Graeme Clephane, in August this year:

The Society has lost one of its more colorful characters with the death of Graeme Clephane. Graeme was a familiar sight at all Society events with his video camera and fluffy microphone. In his archives there must be a huge stock of visual records of nearly everything that went on. Regrettably much of this has never been seen, but as the material is sifted through, many treasures will surely be brought to light.

Graeme worked in communications for most of his life, starting with the old Post and Telegraph Department and later at TVNZ. He then moved to Orly Productions where he worked as a cameraman and finally started his own company - Compak Telepictures.

He was a skilled cameraman and editor. He put in many hours each year painstakingly putting together presentation videos for COTMA conferences which made THS the envy of other member organizations. His work was meticulous, time consuming and highly professional and would have cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars had we been charged commercial rates. But he would always keep us on tenterhooks, wondering whether the finished product would appear on time. It always did, but there were some nail-biting moments including more than once when we had to collect the video on the way to the airport as we headed off to the conference! Now part of our archive, those videos are now a lasting reminder of over 30 years of the Society's history.

When personal video recorders started to appear, many would-be videographers made great use of the zoom lens. Graeme was less than impressed. "They shouldn't put zoom

lenses on those things," he once remarked. "They play the bloody things like slide trombones."

Graeme also played a significant part in persuading the Christchurch City Council to set up the City Tramway. At a time when video animation was at an early stage of development he very cleverly put together a presentation depicting Boon 152 going round the proposed circuit. This involved filming the background, and then re-filming behind cut outs of photos of 152. As it transpired the tram was going the opposite way from what was actually constructed, and of course there were no rails or wires. However with Graeme's photography, and the enthusiastic and persuasive commentary of TV announcer Simon Williams, the Council and the wider community were convinced and Christchurch got its new tramway!

Graeme had been less active in recent years and we saw little of him at Ferrymead, prompting many people to wonder where he'd got to. There was much sadness when we learned of his passing. As the work of sifting his material gets under way, I know we will unearth a real treasure trove. It will be a wonderful legacy and a long-lasting memorial to a long-term member and a great cameraman.

—**Bruce Dale and Joe Pickering**

ABOVE: Graeme as many Society members knew him: behind his camera, filming goings-on at Ferrymead. The date was 23 January 2010, and the focus of Graeme's attention was newly restored Christchurch double-decker 26 which had been just been launched into service that day after an eight-year long restoration to original working condition.

Photo: Roy Sinclair.



LEFT: As has been previously noted in past issues of Tracts, Ken Henderson and the Society's track gang have been busy relaying part of the Track between the Square Shelter and the curve behind the Cranmer Building. This job was finally completed on 18 August, at which point Ken took this photo to record the gang's handiwork. This section of track has now been booked back in to service.

Photo: Ken Henderson.

FRONT COVER: Back from the Hall of Wheels! Roslyn grip tram 95 is shunted into Tram Barn 2 and placed over the inspection pit for some pre-departure TLC, 26 July 2018. With Ken Henderson providing the necessary muscle to move No. 95, under 'supervision' from Brian Fairbrass and Michaela Levin, everything ran smoothly.

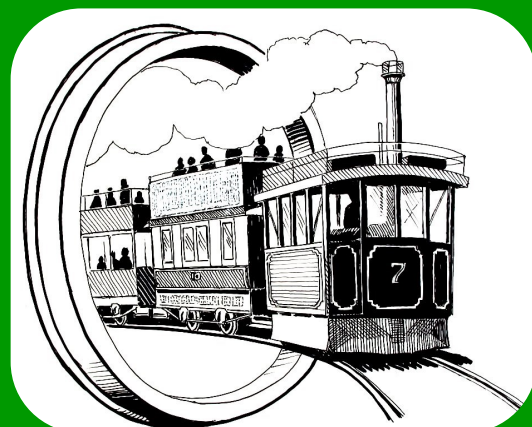
Photo: Don McAra

Ferrymead Tram Tracts

The newsletter of the Tramway Historical Society

Editor: Alastair Cross—tracts@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz

We welcome contributions of material for publication in Tram Tracts—if you have anything tram, bus or trolleybus-related you want to share with us, please email it to the Editor at tracts@ferrymeadtramway.org.nz. Slide photographs are welcome by arrangement.



The Tramway Historical Society

P. O. Box 1126 , Christchurch 8140 - www.ferrymeadtramway.org.nz