

Ferrymead

Tram Tracts

Newsletter of the
Tramway Historical Society Inc
P. O. Box 1126
Christchurch



A couple of recent events

BARRY MARCHANT reports that our jigger recently made its first run for many years thanks to some repairs and maintenance by Carl Pumpa. The photo on the right was taken by Barry late in the day and shows jigger and crew outside the Print Shop.

Wednesday 24 May saw almost 30 members and friends meet in the railway station to enjoy a talk and slide show presented by John Shanks who earlier in the year travelled by sea to Campbell and Auckland Islands. This was followed by the usual 'tea and bickies'.

Many thanks John for a very interesting evening, and to those who cleaned up afterwards.



Coming events

Mid winter dinner

The midwinter dinner will be held on

Sunday 18 June

at the

Papanui Club,

310 Sawyers Arms Rd,

meeting at 5.30. and we plan to eat at 6 pm. It's a smorgasbord with soup, two roasts and a range of veges and salads, also sweets available.

The cost is only **\$14.00** each.

Telephone bookings to Barry, phone 9817172 by **13th June**. Leave a message on the answerphone if no reply.

Members, friends and family welcome

Society Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at

7.45 pm Tuesday 27 June 2006

in the

Moorhouse Railway Station.

This will be an important meeting as a new president and vice-president must be found.

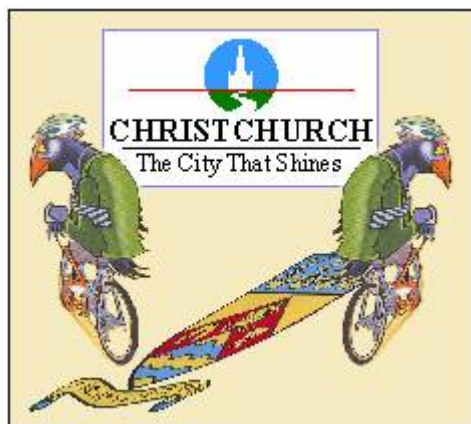
Mark the calendar now!!

Next work party

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday 17 June**. Formal work parties are held every **third Saturday of the month** but there are also activities **every Saturday** and on **Monday evenings**.

The City That Shone

STUART HOBBS makes some observations on logos and coats of arms



Nothing is as constant as change. The logo which came in to use in the 1990s has already changed. The city no longer claims to shine. More importantly, the red and black lines which some of us thought might represent the tramway power supply have also disappeared. The Pukekos no longer support their shield, having treadled off to Ferrymead in search of their ancestral lands.

The Coat of Arms adopted during the earliest days of the Christchurch City Council really stood the test of time. Any surviving copies in my possession are not well drawn; in fact the animals which support the shield seem to be figments of the artist's imagination. The

smaller side shields are inscribed 'Britons hold your own' which probably explains why people fight to sit on the same seat in the bus each morning! This 'variety' of the arms was still found in City Council publications during the early 1940s.

In 1916, the *Lyttelton Times* published Henry Wigram's book *The Story of Christchurch*. On the cover the device appears in a form which I have not found anywhere else. The Heraldic decorations are replaced with a 'name belt', similar to that adopted by the Tramway Board. The

design may well have been Henry Wigram's personal preference. His train was still of the 'clockwork toy style'. Prior to

1905 the Tramway Board were decorating former

company cars with a rather sophisticated version, as can be seen on tram No 1 at Ferrymead. The sign writers obviously enjoyed a degree of individual choice when hand painting the shields.

Double decker trailer No 91 for instance, featured an 'F' class locomotive. Unfortunately

this image had to be removed in order to discover the previous livery. (New Brighton

Company) It might be possible for a future restoration team to use the 'F' pattern design and lettering on trailer 74 which, sadly, remains in its 1950s pre scrapping livery. Such a redecoration would not be out of place, but please remember that the sheep has turned around.

A 'Coat of Arms' can still be seen above the entrance to the Town Hall. Well out of reach of the graffiti mongers it adds an oasis of orderly colour to an otherwise 'concrete and glass' area of Kilmore Street.



Around the tramway...

Track News

KEN HENDERSON reports that the track gang has been making progress and at long last have finished the track upgrade at Church Corner. The check rail on the 'out' leg was removed and refitted during May. New bed plates and ferrules have been fitted and should be good for a few years to come. It should be noted that one is never really finished as there will always be maintenance jobs to do such as new sleepers to replace ones that we could not afford to do this time round.

Our next priority is to upgrade the Big Curve which involves at least 60 new sleepers, new bed plates, new tie rods, removing check rail and fitting new ferrules. Most of the materials are on hand due to grant monies being received for this work; all we need is labour and time.

We are grateful to those who have helped with the track which includes workshop jobs such as cutting and drilling bed plates, cutting and threading tie rods etc.

Bridges and things

BARRY MARCHANT has been busy with his camera and has provided, among other things, some shots of work on the new bridge.

Top: Two of the four columns for the bridge assembled almost ready to be erected.

Middle: Graeme at work 'carving' some fancywork out of new timber which replaced some of the rotten stuff.

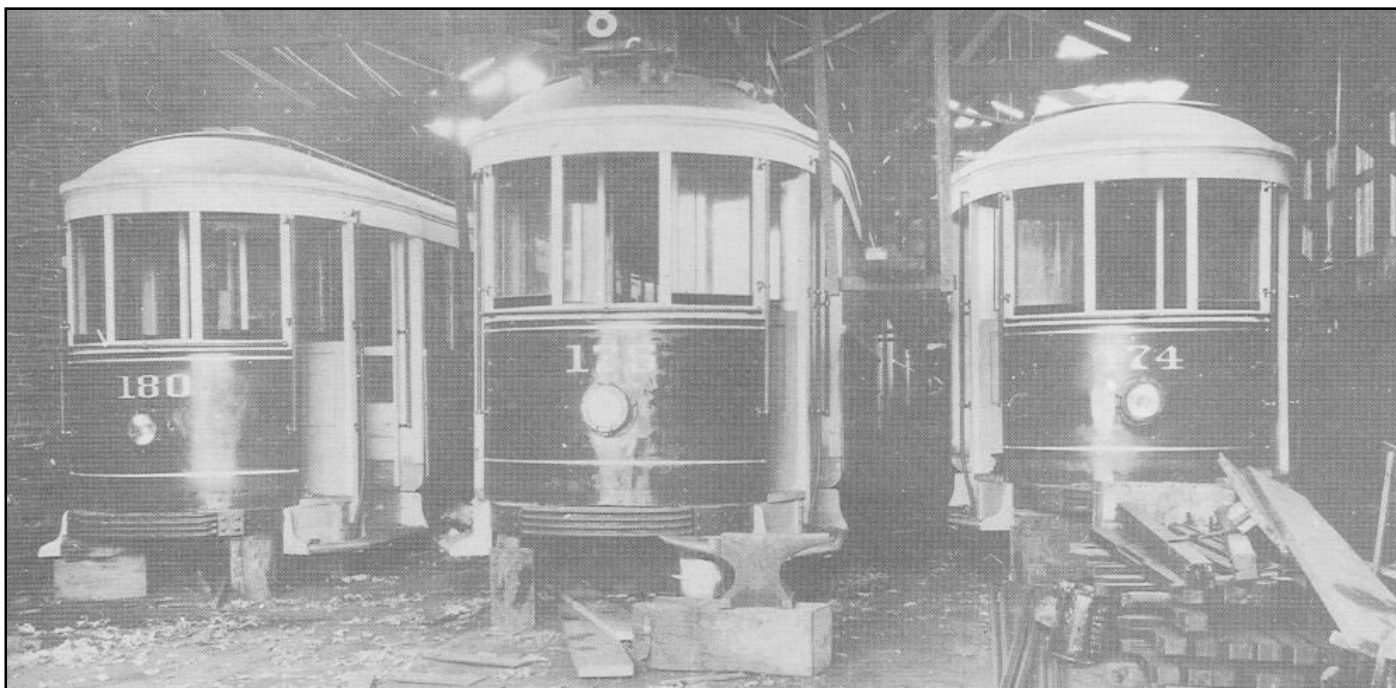
Bottom: Larry getting covered in crater grease while cleaning out a gear case.



Contributions welcome

All contributions to *Tracts* are welcome. Please feel free to send your stories, reminiscences, notices, questions, requests, photos, whatever to the address at the foot of the first page.

A couple of conundrums!



This well known photograph shows Brill trams under construction in Boons' factory. These trams were allegedly built for multiple unit operation but where are the couplers? The numbers are where these should be. So was the decision to equip these cars for multiple unit operation and afterthought? Can anybody shed light on this?

Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library



And where is this? No prizes for guessing the answer but the chemist shop in the background may give a clue — or not!

Photo: Colin Loach