



Annual meeting adjourned (and your editor apologises)

IT SEEMS EXTRAORDINARY, having twice published the notice of the annual general meeting in this newsletter, that your editor should have got the date wrong, but that is precisely what happened. I was ready to attend the meeting on Wednesday and it was only a chance encounter with Colin Elkins that afternoon in the main street of Rangiora, that revealed that the meeting had actually happened the day before! At least I was saved what would have been a fruitless trip to Ferrymead.

So I apologise for not having attended the meeting and made notes for a report. However Colin informed me that the meeting was in fact mostly taken up with discussion over the revamped

Constitution, and that the election of officers and the presentation of the financial report did not happen as planned.

The meeting was adjourned until a date to be arranged in August when these formalities will be attended to.

The proposed Constitution as amended had been circulated to members with the meeting notice and most of the alterations suggested were in the nature of fine tuning.

The work was done by a team led by Dave Hinman who undertook the massive task of "reconstituting the Constitution".

Dave's team of helpers included Ted Harrall, who initiated the new

constitution project, Nelson Kennedy who did a final vetting, and a team of helpers who provided comments and improvements, including Douglas Johns, Cameron Lill, Graeme Richardson, Stephen Taylor and John Shanks. It was Dave's hard work and drive that carried the project through to completion (driven, of course, by the need to provide greater heritage protection for our exhibits and to put the Operations Committee on a formal and constitutionally recognised basis). A number of other areas of the constitution were also updated.

Thanks to Colin Elkins and John Shanks for the information contained in this report.

Coming events

An address by Stuart Batty

Stuart Batty is a director of Rotary in New Zealand. He will tell us about Rotary projects he is involved with in Tanzania, South Africa, & Pacific Islands.

Wednesday 19 July 2006

Railway Station at Ferrymead starting at 7.30pm, admission \$2.00

The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Trams.....!

John Shanks will tell us about three little tram lines in Europe which tackle ferocious hills – mountaineering by tramcar! – and have survived threats of closure to delight not only the locals, but many visitors.

Put the date in your diary now:

Wednesday 16 August 2006 at 7.30 pm.

Venue: Ferrymead Railway Station
Admission: \$2.00

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**.

Another conundrum

THE RESPONSE to our two conundrums last month was so underwhelming that we have decided to offer another. Can you identify the contents and the location — i.e. what and where — of this photo by the inimitable C. D. Loach Esq? We are so keen for you to participate that we are doubling the value of last month's prize for the first correct answer received.

Last month's solution: this photo was taken on Colin Loach's model layout but as no one came up with the correct answer, the prize remains unclaimed.



The way we were...

Two uncredited pictures from *Tramway Topics*, June 1968, when the idea of restoring and running electric trams (or trams of any type for that matter) was still a dream.



Unrestored Brill 178 and Hills car 24 stand outside the tram barn with a pile of ballast in the foreground. There are no poles, wires, traverser or tram barn No 2.



Track laying in Ferrymead Reserve using rails retrieved from the old Blackball railway branch.

Round the site

BARRY MARCHANT reports

WORK ON RESLEEPERING the big curve is now under way with about 12 tie rods replaced and the gauge and check rail over about half the curve now corrected as necessary. Ten tie rods to go, then we start on 50 or so sleepers which have been pre-drilled on one end. Ken and Ces would appreciate any assistance on offer for this job.

On the Wednesday after the big snow an employee of the contractor working on the landscaping of Wood Hill omitted to lower the tray of his truck before crossing our tram line with the inevitable result. The contact wire was broken, one bracket arm fell to the ground, and two others required attention. The P & T Society's telephone lines were also broken. Orion were asked to look at the problem, but they had only one gang still working in Christchurch and no knowledge of tramway overhead.

The repairs were therefore undertaken in the cold and wet by Graeme, Larry and Brian. Luck must have been around as Graeme was able to hire what must have been the only cherry picker not being used to replace fallen power lines south of Christchurch. Thanks guys for a job undertaken in the most miserable of conditions.

