Invercargill 16

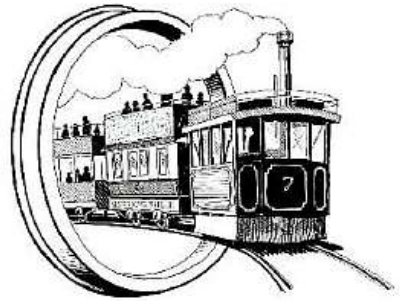


In service



Going, going …





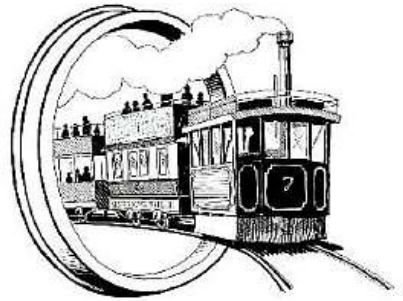
11 July 1951 - DT King & Co. transport ex-Invercargill Birney tram to Te Anau for Ward Beer, a ranger with the Southland Acclimatisation Society who converted it into a sleep out.

At rest …

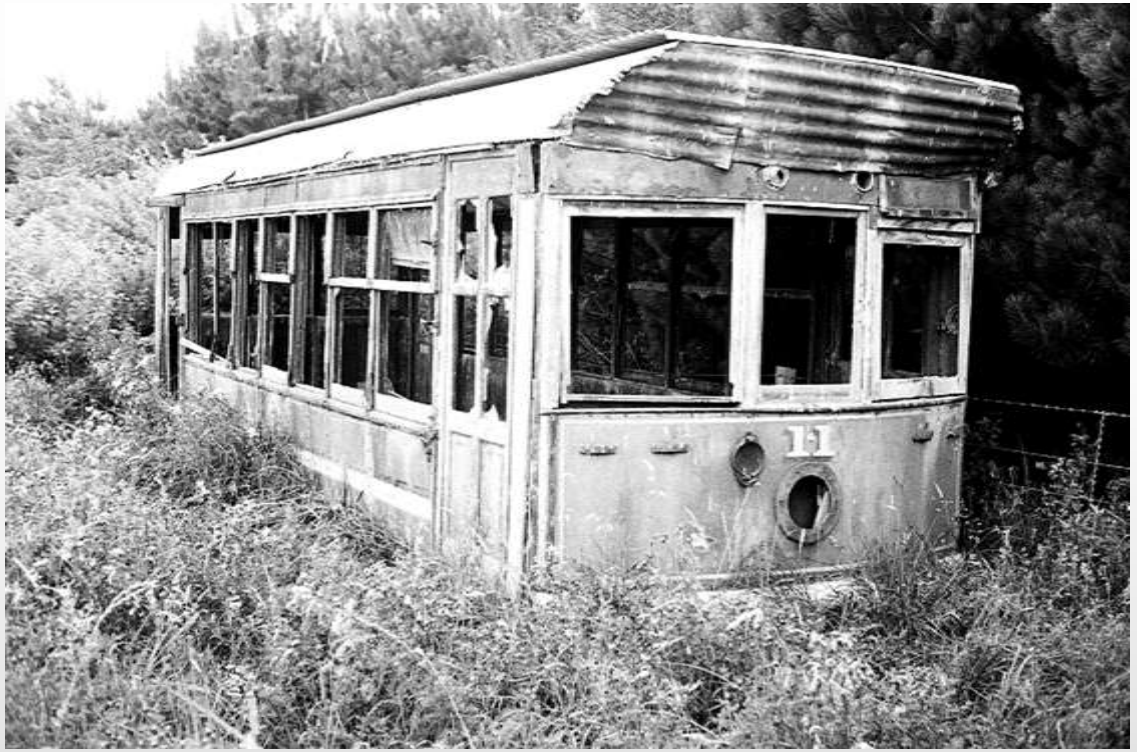
No. 16 originally went to Te Anau when written off in 1951, and was found there and photographed in 1960 by a young Australian student touring New Zealand. His name was John Radcliffe !



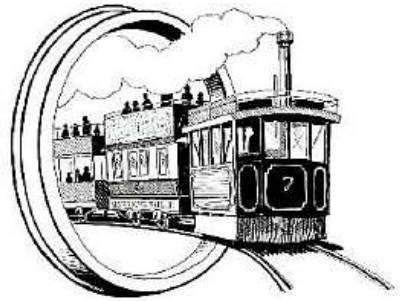
Lost !



The THS “tram hunting” era of the late 1960s and 1970s discovered many of the trams of the Invercargill fleet, including Birneys 11,12,13 and 15. No. 14 had already been destroyed.











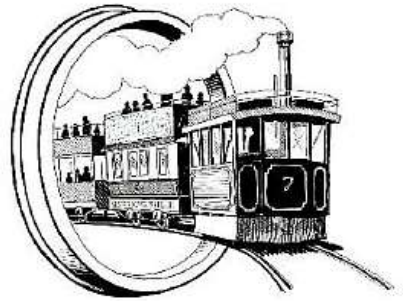
But despite having heard that No. 16 had gone to Te Anau, THS could find no trace of it



Found!

June 2015 - No. 16 re-discovered by Dave Carr at Davaar, a 1100ha sheep and cattle station near The Key, some 25kms from Te Anau. It had been purchased by farmer David McDonald in 1965 for £150 and relocated also to use as a sleepout. It was later used for storage

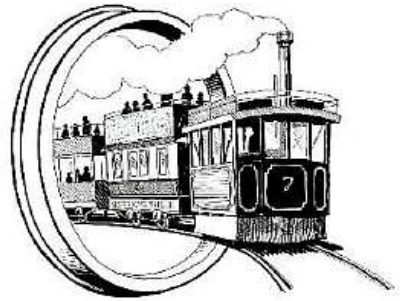




No longer wanted by the Macdonald family, tram 16 was donated to the Bill Richardson Transport World and returned to Invercargill in March 2016.

‘‘Once we realised its historic value we were keen to find it a good home, so we are delighted that Richardsons have taken ownership and are restoring it.’’

Back to Invercargill



16 is now at Invercargill's Bill Richardson Transport World, and HW Richardson Group Director Jocelyn O'Donnell has stated that the tram will be completely refurbished and would form part of the museum's extensive collection of trucks, cars, bikes, tractors, contracting equipment and other transport related memorabilia.

(From Southland Express 3 April 2016)

THS are in contact with the museum and are helping with information about the conservation of the tram.

Bill Richardson
TRANSPORT
WORLD
Invercargill • New Zealand



Arrival

HW Richardson Group director Jocelyn O'Donnell said the company was extremely grateful for the generous donation. The tram will be completely refurbished and would form part of the museum's extensive collection of trucks, cars, bikes, tractors, contracting equipment and other transport related memorabilia.

"I am very excited to have this tram as it truly is a vehicle of significance for Southland. I can't wait for the restoration to begin and am even keen to get involved in some of the work myself. Seeing it start heading towards its former glory will be great to see." *(From Southland Express 3 April 2016)*

Twins?

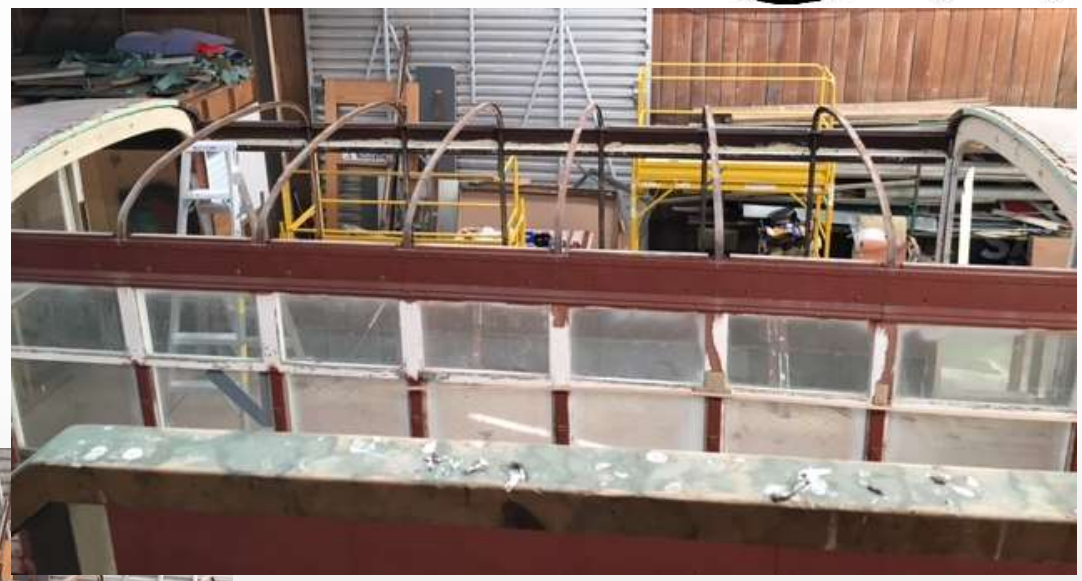




No 16 is identical to Birney 15 restored by THS and now operating on the City Tramway in Christchurch. THS are in contact with the museum and are helping with information about the conservation of the tram.

Stop Press – no time wasted!







Pictures courtesy of
Graeme Williams
Truck Museum Curator