

DUNEDIN BOX CAR No. 11

Construction date: 1903 (built by JG Brill Co. in Philadelphia USA)

Service location: Dunedin, New Zealand

Service dates: Dec 1903 – mid-1953

CHC Tram fleet: from January 1995



History of No. 11

The Box Car was one of several standard early 1900s designs by JG Brill Co. The Roslyn Tramway Company commenced operation in Dunedin in 1900, before the main Dunedin system opened in December 1903. 11 was one of the original Dunedin fleet comprising of 43 Brill-built trams of three types. Many of these trams ran for most of the 53-year life of Dunedin Electric Tramways and were virtually unchanged throughout their long service life.

11 was withdrawn from service in mid-1953 and was sold at auction on 4 July 1953 to W Hastie of Pine Hill to be used as a farm storage shed. The tram was found by the Tramway Historical Society (THS) in 1964 and was donated by Mrs Hastie to THS the following year before being transported to Ferrymead in 1967. 11 was selected for restoration in 1981, requiring an estimated 9000 hours of work with suitable equipment similar to original sourced from around the world and from other Dunedin trams. The restored tram operated passenger service at Ferrymead from 1986-1994 when it was overhauled for service on the Christchurch tramway system. The Dunedin City Corporation name on the tram was replaced with Christchurch Tramway Limited in the same Edwardian style.

One of the original Christchurch Tramway Limited fleet, 11 was initially intended to be a temporary addition pending obtaining of a Brisbane Dreadnought No 133 from Wellington Tramway Museum. When this did not eventuate 11 was retained and soon became a poster tram for the tramway, featuring on much of the contemporary advertising and memorabilia.

In 2005 a Dunedin horse tram trailer was painted in the same red and cream livery as 11 and the tram was modified to tow a trailer in order to increase capacity at busy times. 11 and trailer No. 18 were a familiar sight on the city streets until the February 2011 earthquake ceased tramway operations for nearly 3 years. 11 was later one of the original fleet to operate on the post-quake route where it remains a favourite for many customers.

Technical Specifications

Length: 8.8m

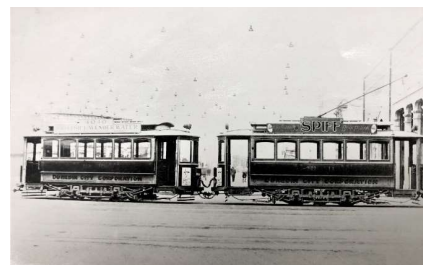
Tare weight: 10 tonnes

Powered by: 600v DC. 2x 60hp (45kw) motors. Also now has 24v system for lights, comms.

Controllers: K35JJ (originally Westinghouse 210)

Trucks: Brussels 21E 33" wheels (originally Brill 21E)

Capacity: 26 seated passengers



Box Cars 10 (L) and 11 (R) coupled, 1922-26



11 and other trams at Forbury Park Races



Box Car 11 heading to Gardens – 1951



11 as found by THS – 1965



11 after restoration – Ferrymead, 1987



11 in Cathedral Junction in the late 1990s



11 with trailer 18 in tow



11 on Worcester Bridge – 2016

Photos courtesy of THS (image 1), Graham Stewart (images 2-3) and John Shanks (4-5) and Dave Hinman (7)