

WELLINGTON CABLE CAR MUSEUM

Safe return of Grip Car 3

October 2005



A fully restored Grip Car 3 journeys back to Wellington for installation in the museum

Photo: Mark Coote

One of Wellington's original cable cars, Grip Car 3, has now been restored to its former glory and safely installed in an extension to the Wellington Cable Car Museum.

The museum, which is located at the top of the cable car system, is being extended to accommodate the restored grip car and to provide additional space for interpretation of the cable car system and surrounding area. Building work started in April and will be completed in time for an official opening on December 5, also the date of the museum's fifth birthday.

Grip Car 3 spent nine months at the Wheelwright Shop in the Wairarapa, where it was completely dismantled and all components cleaned and repaired as part of the conservation process. It was brought back to Wellington in early October and carefully manoeuvred into the museum extension before building work was complete.

A considerable amount of detective work was involved to determine some aspects of Grip Car 3's original appearance, with restorers working from early photographs and physical signs on the car itself. One of the most striking discoveries was that its original paint colour was a dark green, rather than the red usually associated with Wellington's cable cars.

The restoration project was the initiative of the Wellington Museums Trust, which manages the Wellington Cable Car Museum as well as the Museum of Wellington City & Sea, City Gallery Wellington, Capital E, the Colonial Cottage Museum and the New Zealand Cricket Museum (jointly with the New Zealand Cricket Museum Trust).

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