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THE GULLY GAZETTE

THE NEWSLETTER OF STATE MINE HERITAGE PARK & RAILWAY, LITHGOW.
THE CITY OF GREATER LITHGOW MINING MUSEUM INC
INC NO Y 11231-17

PHONE: 63521096

FAX: 6353 1185

WEBSITE: www.statemine.org.au

E-MAIL: statemine@lisp.com.au

First edition 2007

Welcome to the first edition of your "Gully Gazette for 2007, starting with reports from President Ray Christison.

Presidents' Report

Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway

2006 has been a big year for the **State Mine Heritage Park**. As well as actively participating in the launch of the **Furnace, Fire and Forge** book the museum was heavily involved in the development of the **multi-award winning Furnace, Fire and Forge Heritage Trail**.

In addition a number of new mining-related museum displays have been developed.

Visitation increased with improving numbers of school and specialist tours.

Central West Heritage Network

Lithgow was under the spotlight on Thursday April 27th as the Central West Heritage Network held its first meeting for 2006 at the **Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park**. The venue was chosen to match the theme of the years **National Trust Heritage Festival, "Industrial Heritage: Our Working Lives"**

Sixty heritage professionals, local people working in heritage and council

officers from across the Central West Region, representing local government areas from Oberon to the Warrumbungles, were treated to a tour of the museum and lunch before getting down to the business of the day.

During the tour volunteer blacksmiths **Phil Sparks** and **Ieun Batchelor** captivated the attendees with an awe inspiring demonstration of traditional forging methods.

Lunch, in a high tea style including ribbon sandwiches, savouries and dainties was provided by **State Mine** volunteers **Jenni Christison, Gloria Cooper, Jodie Whittle, Liz Hudson, Phoebe Christison, Penelope Christison and Emily Christison. Darryl Cooper, Peter Hunt and Colin Millard** kept things running and showed the Visitors around the site.

The formal **Network** meeting was held in the **State Mine Bath House**. Guests were welcomed by **Lithgow's Mayor Neville Castle** and subsequent presentations were provided on **Lithgow's** industrial heritage and recent developments, including the stabilisation works recently undertaken at the **Blast Furnace site** by **Lithgow Council**. Local presenters included **Lithgow Heritage Advisor Barbara Hickson, Lithgow City Council's Ian Rufus, Ray Christison** of the **State Mine Heritage Park** and **Michael Forbes** of the **Zig Zag Railway**

Lithgow's substantial industrial heritage was acknowledged and celebrated throughout the meeting.

Other presenters included **Keynote** speaker **Michael Clarke** of the **Engineering Australia Engineering Heritage Committee** who spoke on the growing recognition of Australia's industrial heritage and **Kevin Boole** of **Mount Rankin** who covered the first road constructed from **Sydney** to **Bathurst**.

The day clearly reinforced the importance of Australian heavy industry and Australia's only inland industrial city.

Network Co-ordinator **Pauline Barker** of **Rockley** and **Pat Moppet** of **Lithgow City Council** arranged the events of the day on behalf of the Network. The next meeting of the Network will be held in **Dubbo**.



Phil Sparks making the "Sparks' fly!"



Phil Sparks crafted special "**High Tea**" stands for the occasion. A wonderful afternoon tea of scones, jam and cream was provided by **Kerrie Millard**



New Interpretive Signs

Thanks to grants from **NSW Heritage Office** and **Museums & Galleries** the museum has been able to install new interpretive signs.

Furnace, Fire & Forge Heritage Trail Signs

Two new signs show the former **Upcast Shaft Poppet Head** and miners going to work in the 1930's. These were part of the development of the **Furnace, Fire & Forge Heritage Trail**, new signs have also been installed at the **Zig Zag Railway, Blast Furnace Park, Lithgow Golf Club and Queen Elizabeth Park**. The **State Mine** signs were installed by our **Work for the Dole Team**.



Centenary of Federation sign on left and new Furnace Fire & Forge Heritage Trail sign on the right.



New Furnace, Fire & Forge Heritage Trail sign for the upcast shaft.

The Red Flag in Lithgow

A **Volunteer Initiated Museums Grant** from **Museums & Galleries NSW** has funded two interpretive panels on communism in Lithgow in the 1920's. These eye catching panels were designed by **Ingrid Christison**. Using images of the **1929 May Day Parade** in Lithgow sonated by **Jan Blake** they cover the origins of May Day, Italian steelworkers and ex State Mine workers **Bill Orr, Charlie Nelson** and **Jack Blake**, all of whom became active communists.

Plans are in train to set up a haulage display in the open section of the State Mine belt drift. This will feature reconstructed skips attached to a cable with haulage clips. We are currently contacting older collieries in the region to source a suitable number of functional clips.

Corporate Sponsorships

Corporate Sponsorships have been received from **Lithgow City Council, Lithgow District Workmans Club** and the **Mine Workers Trust**.

2006 ended with some difficulties on the horizon. These appeared on three fronts:

- * After a very successful National Downhill Mountain Bike round we received word that land at the top end of the track has been sold to Australian Wildlife Sanctuaries and will be fenced off, preventing further use of the downhill track.

Rail Safety Audit

- The bi-annual **Rail Safety Audit** of the **Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway** was undertaken by the **Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator** in November 2006.

A full audit report has been provided and the museum is currently working through a full review of our safety

management systems in accordance with new National Rail Safety Guidelines.

Despite these challenges I am confident that we can look forward to a positive year with a good team of volunteers. We have achieved much and continue to develop the mining museum and related programmes.

Ray Christison President

Mercury Arc Rectifier Display

Under the direction of **Michael Langford** and **Peter Skinner**, the Work For the Dole team has fabricated a cabinet to display the museum's mercury arc rectifier.

Donation of the rectifier from the **Kandos Colliery** was arranged some years ago by Light Railway Historian **Ross Mainwaring**.



Mercury Arc Rectifier on Display

In another example of State Mine innovation the cabinet was fabricated from toilet doors removed from the relocatable toilet blocks purchased some years ago for installation in the carriage

shed. The plinth is one of a number purchased four years ago for \$10.00 each from the Powerhouse Museum!

The two former **Glen Davis Oil Shale Mine tram locomotives** owned by the museum will be displayed with the mercury arc rectifier.



Glen Davis Oil Shale Locomotive



Angus Place Colliery donates Gemco underground transport

Late in 2006 Angus Place Colliery donated a Gemco transport to the museum. The transport and a Longwall chock were recently delivered to the site by Henry Plant Hire and Equipment.



Longwall Chock donated by Angus Place Colliery

Second Lithgow Valley Colliery Transport Restored

State Mine Volunteer **Jodie Whittle** has restored a second Lithgow Valley Colliery transport. One transport was restored by a Work for the Dole team in 2005 and is currently on display in the Bath House

.Rubbed back ready for painting-the next transport to be restored.



Restored Lithgow Valley Colliery Transport on Display

Katoomba Skyway Winder

When ScenicWorld at Katoomba installed a new cable car to replace the old Katoomba Skyway the original winder was donated to the State Mine Museum. The winder, originally used on the ash plant at the Glen Davis Oil Shale Works, arrived at the State Mine in May 2006. It is planned to reconstruct it as a working display.



Sections of the winder being unloaded in May 2006.

Mineworkers Trust Donation

The Mineworkers Trust recently donated \$1,754.50 to cover the cost of printing new brochures for the Museum. This is another expression of the outstanding support provided by the Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union since the establishment of the heritage park.

Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering

In August 2006 members of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering visited the museum. Their visit was a highlight of a weekend spent in the Lithgow district

Espresso Coffee Machine

The Cooper's have once again excelled in their generosity, Gloria & Darryl's son Ashley secured a second hand reconditioned **Espresso Coffee Machine** donated by **Mike Koolen** of **"Espresso Essentials, Brisbane.** It has already proved it's worth in our "Coffee Shop and will be an asset for future events.

Book Donation

Terry and Lesley Hayes of Windsor recently donated a boxed volume including a book and maps of the coal deposits of eastern Australia. This valuable resource has been placed in the museum collection.

New Board Elected

At the AGM held on 25 February 2007 members elected the Board for 2006/2007. The new Board is as follows:

President	Ray Christison
Vice-President	Darryll Cooper
Secretary	John Oates
Treasurer	Jennifer Christison
Ordinary Board Members	

Ieuan Batchelor
Michael Langford
Barry Noble
Stephen Overmyer
Ian Rohr

We welcome Ieuan Batchelor to the Board. Ieuan is an industrial arts teacher and has experience in workshop management. His skills will be greatly valued.

The Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Liz Hudson who has been a vital part of the management team for many years. Complications following a serious knee injury have forced Liz to relinquish her role on the Board. We would like to thank her for her enthusiastic and invaluable contribution to the museum over many years. We also wish her well with her recovery..

Lithgow State Mine Railway Limited

A separate not for profit company, Lithgow State Mine Railway Limited, was formed in April 2006 in accordance with a resolution passed at the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc Annual General Meeting of December 2005. This company operates independently of the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc with liaison at Board level.

We are currently working through issues involved in transferring standard gauge rolling stock to the control of the new company. It has been proposed that such a transfer will be covered by a Bill of Sale ensuring that all transferred items remain in community ownership. The Board has advised Lithgow State Mine Railway Limited that a transfer cannot be progressed until the new company is granted Rail Safety Accreditation.

Lithgow State Mine Railway Limited has taken up a lease of Eskbank Station and the former Lithgow Station Master's Residence in Railway Parade. Members wishing to contact Lithgow State Mine Railway

Limited can write to the Secretary of that organisation at PO Box 350, Lithgow 2790.

Fire, Furnace & Forge – The History of Lithgow Iron & Steel Works

"Fire, Furnace & Forge" is a book by Bob McKillop with contributions by various researchers).

The story of Australia's first and only inland heavy industrial centre from its beginnings in 1869 and the establishment of the first blast furnace there in 1874 to the final closure of the iron and steel works in 1932.

A highly detailed book with numerous rare photos and maps of the early Lithgow iron and steelworks.

Special Offer

This exclusive book is just \$50.00 for SMHP members (normally \$59.95). Please contact the SMHP Museum to secure your copy.

Telephone: (02) 6353 1513

Email: statemine@lisp.com.au

Mail: PO Box 617, LITHGOW, NSW, 2790

Downhill Mountain Bike Track

As many members would already be aware, due to a change in land ownership, the downhill track was closed in January 2007. Riders are therefore requested not to use this track. The previous Downhill Mountain Bike Races have been very successful, bringing thousands of visitors to the city and injecting hundreds of thousands of dollars in to the local community.

So, in liaison with the Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Club, the SMHP is currently planning to develop a new downhill track and a BMX track. This is currently under construction and is being developed by SMHP volunteers and a "Work For the Dole" team.

Stay tuned for further developments on this worthwhile project. John Oates.

Safety Management System

In accordance with the requirements of the National Rail Safety Accreditation Package and the Rail Safety (Safety Management Systems) Guideline gazetted in June 2006 we are required to develop a new Safety Management System. In addition a Rail Safety Audit conducted by the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) highlighted many issues with our current Rail Safety Management that require improvement.

We are working with ITSRR and other stakeholders to incorporate proposed safety management improvements into our new Safety Management System. To date the following new procedures and programmes have been adopted by our Board:

- Revised Drug and Alcohol Policy.
- Alcohol and Drug Programme.
- Shunting Procedure, including new risk assessments for shunting operations.
- Incident Reporting Procedure

We will continue to develop a new Safety Management System over the next six months.

Removal of Privately Owned Rolling Stock

Over the next few months most of the rolling stock owned by persons other than the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum Inc will be removed from our site.

Renewal of Membership

Membership for 2007/2008 is now due for renewal.

**Please complete the attached form and forward along with your payment to;
The Secretary,
The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum**

P O Box 617Lithgow NSW 2790.

Your continued support is very much appreciated. B Noble Ed

