

FASCINATING FIND

MODEL WINDING ENGINE



Within a few months of the gold rush starting in Gympie some miners were at work following the gold-bearing quartz reefs. At first they used a windlass, or a horse driven whim to raise the ore and convey miners and equipment, but as depths increased steam power was needed.

This working model of a steam winding engine was built by Jim McKenna to operate on compressed air. Complete with poppet head frame and cages it is a replica of the 1899 steam winding engine at the museum made by Walkers in Maryborough in 1899.

The boilers producing the steam for the engines burned firewood until the rail connection with Maryborough permitted coal to be bought from Burrum Heads.

The museum will be firing up its boiler and running the massive 1899 winding engine and associated equipment on Sunday November 15th.