



THE



NEWSLETTER

NO. 91 OCTOBER 2015

THE GYMPIE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

215 Brisbane Road, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

P.O. Box 626, GYMPIE. QLD 4570

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Email: info@gympiegoldmuseum.com.au www.gympiegoldmuseum.com.au

**ELECTED OFFICERS
at A.G.M. 5.8.15**

President:

Frank Lightfoot

Tel: 54833965

Secretary:

Ralph Richardson

Tel: 54839418

Mob: 0408616709

Treasurer/Editor:

Marilyn Soanes

Tel: 54845211

**Senior Vice President/
Historian:**

Bennett Suthers

Tel: 54823315

Mob: 0412434961

**Junior Vice President/
Historian:**

Allan Blackman

Tel: 54828828

Mob: 0428332291

OTHER POSITIONS HELD:

Property Officer:

& Firearms Licensee

Ron Owen

with Assistant Jo Carson

Publicity Officer:

Max Travis

Tel: 54812157

Museum Markets

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month

NOVEMBER dates: 1st, 15TH, 29TH

(7 a.m.-12 noon)

Site Bookings to Museum Café 54 823995

Come along and browse the markets
for some bargains and catch up with friends!

Entertainment by the Gympie Museum

Re-enactment Group will be on the
3rd Sunday of each month

NEXT PERFORMANCE 15TH November 9 a.m.

2015 EVENT:

**INVITATION TO THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
FOR VOLUNTEERS/MEMBERS
ON SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
AT GOLD MUSEUM CAFÉ 12 NOON**

(see last page for details)

THE GENERAL MEETING will be held on WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2015
at 7.00 p.m. upstairs of the Gold Room. Business includes: Work Projects, Forward Planning

Steam Festival...



Some operating exhibits were privately owned by Ralph and Chris, and were an added feature of demonstrations on the day.

(Left) Luke is pictured with this vertical fire tube boiler that was made by Farrar and Trefts at their factory in Buffalo NY for a Galion steam roller, probably in 1923. It features 88 tubes and was manufactured for a 200 psi working pressure.

Obscured in the photo is an interesting Steam Engine by L.B. Coulsell who were engineers and founders in Black St, North Melbourne. The engine was sold by Northey Siddeley & Co between 1890 and 1896. The engine is a 41/2" by 81/2" horizontal stationary type used to power machine tools via line shafting and flat belts. The principal of operation is that the valve admits steam from a boiler to one side of the piston, exerting force on the piston, at the same time exhausting waste steam from the other side of the piston which expands and releases its energy.

The valves then reverse to admit steam to the second side of the piston and exhaust the expanded steam from the first side, the flywheel storing energy to continue the motion between power strokes. A particular advantage of this process is that maximum torque is developed at low speed. Speed control is by flyball governor.

(Centre) Allan B. and Max are discussing the finer points of various pieces of machinery.

(Right) It's all about getting the right balance...wheelie! This experienced rider's pose shows how it is done.

THANKYOU!!

To all the Volunteers for your help and support, various Stallholders incl. Woodworkers Club demonstrations, Men's Shed for the appetising sausage sizzle, Cooloola Potters Group and Gympie Museum Re-enactment Group for your attendance, catering by the Gold Museum Café, and Matt Allard for organising live music, children's entertainment and street theatre group.

Steam Festival (Cont.)...



The Street theatre members
in eye-catching costume



(Above Left) Stallholder Evelyn Bonnick pictured promoting 'Your Inspiration at Home' with numerous products of a wide range of flavours for inclusion in cooking.

Stamper Battery

The ten head stamper had not run since 1940's, when it was last recorded crushing the gold bearing rock winched up from the underground.

The official recommissioning of No. 2 South Great Eastern stamper battery by the Mayor Mick Curran was on Saturday of the Steam Festival event.



Cornish Boiler



The fate of the original boiler is unknown, but the almost identical one is installed on the site.

The boiler is of a type invented in 1800 by Cornish Engineer Richard Trevithick and is one of a pair made in 1906 by Walkers Ltd, Maryborough, for use by Maryborough City Council at the Teddington Weir pumping station.

It can turn more than 1100 litres of water an hour to steam when running, with preparation time for the fire burning for 1½ days.

Steam Festival Speeches...

On the third of October when it came time to recommission the stampers the boiler was making so much noise blowing its relief valve that the order of events was changed and the stampers turned on by Gympie Mayor Mick Curran. I then chose not to make a prepared speech as I was running out of voice. The speech is printed below.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

To the best of my knowledge these stampers were last running in the nineteen forties. Therefore it has taken a lot of work to repair them, to provide a boiler and steam engine to drive them and to replace all the other items needed to make it all function.

Thank you to the all the volunteers who made it happen, to the committee that said "YES we can do this!". While many dozens have contributed I must say a special thank you to Ralph, Len and Chris for their ongoing commitment to this project.

We host thousands of school children here every year. When a few more bits are functional, our tour guides will be able to run the stampers at the flick of a switch to help those visiting children understand how these stampers worked during our gold rush.

All of this restoration work has cost the Historical Society about \$23,000 in cash and thousands of volunteer hours. **We did not apply for any grants from anyone.**

In the last ten years the Society has also added or greatly improved over 700 square meters of floor space and most of that has been paid for by our own efforts. At the northern part of our museum you will see preparations for more significant projects, the first being the placement of a 22 ton straight 8 Ruston diesel engine.

I'll now ask the Mayor to say a few words, and to officially recommission the stampers by turning the steam on. All going well they will run for about 10 minutes as it takes a lot of work to keep materials up to them and, the dry ones make too much dust.

Thank you again to all who made this possible and now the Mayor Councillor Mick Curran.
Frank Lightfoot, President

This information below was included in Mayor Mick Curran's Speech.

Restoration of the stamper and installation and restoration of the associated machinery was undertaken entirely by members and volunteers with Society funding of \$23,000.

This ten head stamper being re commissioned is one eighth of the original 80 head installation which operated since about the turn of the century until the 1917 closure of the No 2 South Great Eastern mine,

This remaining machine was purchased by the Government in 1924 for use as a public battery after the closure of the nearby scottish mine battery.

It was operated by a 20 hp oil engine until the 1940s.

Left in the weather to decay and robbed for spare parts, until rescued by the formation of the Society in 1965.

The re commissioning is also a celebration of the Society's Jubilee.

Exhibits



Thankyou to Allan Blackman for the relocated telephone box photo (above left).

The Communications building in the background had the first day of opening on the Saturday of Steam Festival weekend, with most exhibits in place. Interpretive signage on the exhibits is in the process of being attended to. A section on one end of the verandah has the Post Office counter which effectively sets the scene, complete with a Post Mistress whose role definitely suits her character well.

(Above Right) Plaques with Belliss & Morcom Ltd Engineers, Birmingham, England, and Pure Mineral Oil Only to be used are attached to this antique machinery. The steam engine was recently delivered by Council from Tozer Park Depot, and is temporarily placed on hardwood bearers beside the old workshop at the Cottage, until such time a permanent position is allotted.

Volunteers



(Right) Apart from maintaining the database for the collections, **Denise** is presently modelling a kitchen outfit for suitability on a mannequin in the kitchen of Andrew Fisher's House.

(Left) **Rob** is preparing labels for exhibits in the Communications building. Another task he is in the process of undertaking is rearranging the kitchen in the House



Museum Work...

* Work for the Dole team's supervisor Noel has much work in progress. Pavers have been laid and cementing of the gold panning area is the next step. The Monkland railway station internal painting is almost complete and has a refreshed look. One set of steps in poor condition have been removed from the Calico Creek School. Bricks, some with impressed shapes of hearts! have been tastefully set in place in the Davey-Paxman boiler area, and some ground maintenance has been carried out.

* The rooms in Andrew Fisher House have now been rearranged with exhibits, making a noticeable improvement to the visual aspect.

Work continuing includes Gantry decking and beams is continuing to be painted and replaced, mechanical repairs on the Cub Bus, and attaching hinges to archive cupboard.

Museum Progress in the Past...

Readers, are you aware of how the poppet head came into effect?

In October 1973 Society members discussed a City Council proposal to re-erect a mining poppet head near the Bruce Highway. Society members considered that such a structure should be erected above the No. 2 South Great Eastern shaft. In 1974 plans were discussed for erection of a head frame in this location situated on the opposite side of the Lions Park from the museum. After discussion on the project between Reg Doggrell and Irv Runge, plans for the head frame, showing necessary details for builders, were prepared by Irv Runge and his son, Don. In November 1974 it was decided to form a "Grounds Committee" to plan the erection of the poppet legs and the battery shed. The committee comprised of Ray Wilbraham, Neil Buchanan, L Westbury, Bill Mulholland and Irv Runge.

Gold Rush...

The Fire Truck proudly took part in the Gold Rush Parade, driver Frank and Allan on-board.... and not forgetting Blazer - QF&ES fire safety koala in the front seat or should I say the hot seat. The koala outfit was extremely hot even at 4 p.m. in the afternoon.

Thankyou to Allan Blackman for the photo



Other News...

* Heritage Bank News.....The Heritage Bank is phasing out their EFTPOS cards, and switching customers over to Visa debit cards. If any customers have an existing Heritage Bank EFTPOS card, it will remain valid until it reaches its expiry date, then a Heritage Visa debit card will be sent as a replacement.

* The existing flood marker is the responsibility of the Society, and is attached to the gantry between the museum and the poppet head. As part of the Lake Alford Development Plan, Gympie Regional Council has established a new Flood Marker Pole a short distance away, and is 12m high. When completed it will have coloured rings to indicate the heights of previous floods over more than a century, and also interpretive information for visitors and residents to view.

Christmas Celebration...

INVITATION to Volunteers & Members

You and your Partner are invited to the Christmas Celebration
on Sunday 13th December at the Gold Museum Café
12 noon for a (FREE) Luncheon.
Please Reply to the Gold Museum Café (54 823995)
if you are attending by 6.12.15

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