



RIVER FESTIVAL, MANNUM, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
BLACKSMITHS, ENGINES AND BOATS

MEDIA RELEASE

3rd October 2018

Inventive genius reincarnated to bring back heritage to Mannum!

To commemorate the 120th anniversary of the first car to be produced with a differential in the world in 1898 in Mannum, an operational replica will be unveiled at the biennial All Steamed Up Event on the 17th and 18th November 2018.

The Shearer Steam Carriage produced by brothers David and John Shearer one of the first two steam cars to be produced in Australia created an international spotlight on the riverside township around 10 years before Henry Ford produced his first automobile in America.

If Shearers recognised what they had achieved in commercial terms and developed the vehicle further, manufacturing of vehicles in Australia may have been different.

The Shearer Brothers were the founding fathers of Mannum and from humble blacksmiths, started the Shearer manufacturing company which still stands today in Mannum now known as Horwood Bagshaw Limited.

The Shearer Steam Carriage was profiled in Adelaide in 1900 at the Adelaide Chamber of Manufacturers Exhibition with Shearer gaining permission to drive his new invention down the city streets.

Regarded as Mannum's 'grand old man' David Shearer was heralded as a genius for his time. The Shearer car was propelled by means of a steam engine with a Yarrow boiler which he designed himself and the Mail, Saturday, July 10th 1926 reported, "Mannum may well have been the Detroit of Australia. David Shearer certainly did much for Australia and Mannum with his farm implements but at a glance over his first 'Automobile' shows he was on the right track when he built the machine and could have become another Henry Ford if he had stuck to his task. Shearer was

probably the first inventor to attempt to build a horseless carriage in Australia.”

120 years later, the talents of the Shearer Brothers have been reincarnated through the engineering and steam prowess of brothers Doug and Roger Baker, volunteers of the Mannum Dock Museum.

To honour the outstanding engineering ability of the Shearer brothers, our Baker brothers set to work to create plans to produce an operational replica of the original now housed at the National Motor Museum at Birdwood, South Australia.

Doug Baker commenced work on many CAD drawings over 18 months ago from an inspection of the original car which included over 300 photos of original components enabling the design and construction work to be carried out as close as possible in this modern world of operational expectations.

Doug reflected on the many personal reasons for wanting to build the replica Shearer Steam Wagon however there is one controlling principle he said, “To experience the same thrill as the population of 1898 when the first motorised vehicle manufactured in Australia moved.”

“The build will offer a tangible testimony honouring the outstanding engineering ability of David Shearer.”

“Today the original Shearer Steam Wagon is housed in the Birdwood National Motor Car Museum for all to admire. It is my personal opinion the original vehicle should never be driven again. The historic value to Australia and the motoring world is incalculable; a vehicle so unique if anything happened to it, I feel it would be catastrophe.”

“The original has had a number of modifications during its lifetime, some for the better, others not so. However, I hasten to state, without the involvement of the enthusiastic persons of days past who preserved the vehicle as a legacy we cherish today, it most likely would have been lost to history. To these persons I am sincerely grateful.”

The replica Shearer car project will be launched at the All Steamed Up event on Sunday 18th November and is sure to attract many motor vehicle and steam enthusiasts to see the completed carriage work after many hours devoted by Doug and his team of volunteers. Funding is crucial to the success of this project to both build and house the carriage at the Mannum Dock Museum which will form part of the historic Randell Dry Dock conservation and development project for the riverside complex. Proceeds raised at the event will go towards this project and a fundraising campaign is currently underway.

The All Steamed Up Event will include 40 blacksmiths from the SA Artist Blacksmith Association showcasing their artistic talents through this age old skill that started our engineering world of today. Wooden, steam and classic boats as part of the Mannum Freshwater Classic will be on show including Murray River heritage paddle steamers offering short cruises to visitors, the PS Marion built in 1897, the PS Oscar W from Goolwa built in 1908 and the PS Industry from Renmark built in 1911 and

the oldest paddle wheeler in South Australia, the Mannum Dock Museum's PW Mayflower built in 1884.

At the 2016 event, we saw how steam, engines, boats and the love of the Murray River connects so many and I am sure the third All Steamed Up event will be no exception, said Rob Bowring OAM, Chairman of the Mannum Dock Museum.

"Murray River events attract boating enthusiasts from far and wide and we hope to see many wooden and classic boat owners make the journey to Mannum to join in this event."

"Many volunteer hours go into an event of this size and calibre let alone the hours given to build an operational replica of the Shearer Car which means so much to the township of Mannum."

"Although the car will not be operational by November, it will be complete as if it would be ready to be steamed on the day and will be an amazing legacy given to our Museum by Doug Baker and his team, to whom we will be forever grateful."

"To have the operational Shearer Car replica on show coupled with the romance of river steam travel, will bring back Mannum's maritime and engineering ingenuity to the township to stand with many of our Nation's firsts for future generations to enjoy."

This two day event will see engine displays lining the streets and for the first time vintage tractors, traction engines and steam trucks parading around the picturesque Mary Ann riverside reserve along with live entertainment all weekend from State, regional and local bands.

This project has been made possible due to funding received from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

The 2018 All Steamed Up Event will be held on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November 2018, with \$5.00 entry for Adults and under 12 free. For more information phone the Mannum Visitor Information Centre on 85691303 or visit www.allsteamedupfestival.com

Media information contact Deb Alexander, Tourism Manager, Mid Murray Council
0414857738.

Event at a Glance:

Event: All Steamed Up Festival – Mannum
Type: Celebration of Boats, Engines, Blacksmiths and Steam
Largest congregation of working blacksmiths in SA, PS Marion,
PS Oscar W, PS Industry, PW Mayflower cruises
Engines on display, live entertainment on water parades,
regional food and wine fest and much more!

Date: 17th and 18th November 2018
Place: Mary Ann Reserve, Mannum Dock Museum and Arnold Park
next to the ferry, Mannum, South Australia

Cost: Adults - \$5.00, Children under 12 – Free includes entry to the 3
event locations, Mannum Dock Museum, Arnold Park and Mary
Ann Reserve.

Times; 9.30 a.m. To 4.00 p.m.
Further info: www.allsteamedupfestival.com
Mannum Visitor Information Centre 85691303