



MEDIA RELEASE

9TH OCTOBER 2014

NEW MANNUM RIVER FESTIVAL TO ATTRACT LARGEST NUMBER OF WORKING BLACKSMITHS IN SA

Mannum in its 160th Year will again see the return of the ever popular river festival with the inaugural 'All Steamed Up', Engine, blacksmith and boat event to be held at the Mannum Dock Museum and Mary Ann Reserve in November this year.

This annual event will be the largest gathering of blacksmiths working at one time in South Australia, said Chris Carter President of the Artist Blacksmiths Association

"The response has been amazing, we have 34 confirmed blacksmiths attending on both days with three from Victoria, one from New South Wales and two making the long trip from Western Australia"

"A major cash prize competition will be up for grabs and all blacksmiths will not only be working throughout both days of the event in 'blacksmith alley' in Arnold Park but will showcase many of their artistic works for sale in one massive on site exhibition".

The All Steamed Up River Festival will include diesel and steam engines from across State also on display in Arnold Park adjacent to the Mannum Dock Museum where visitors will enjoy the existing interactive displays and have the opportunity

to view the 'Shearer Steam Car' on loan from the National Motor Museum in Birdwood'.

"We are thrilled to have the Shearer Car back in Mannum after so many years", said Chief Executive Officer, Russell Peate of the Mid Murray Council.

"The Shearer Brothers' received worldwide recognition for their ingenuity in creating the Southern Hemisphere's first steam car and it will be fitting to have her back where it all began to sit along side many other world first on display at the Mannum Dock Museum".

"Children of all ages will have the opportunity to steer a paddle steamer down the river at the new 'All Steamed Up' interactive display at the Museum".

"We are very proud of this unique interactive experience on offer as you learn how boilers power paddle steamers , how the paddle wheel turns and the rod and chain steers the boat, I don't think you would see anything like it in Australia".

2014, is certainly the year of milestones for the Mannum Dock Museum, the PW Mayflower in its 130th year is now part of their fleet, the Randell Dry Dock is 140 years old and to top it off, the event will also celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the recommissioning of the PS Marion.

"We will be inviting all our volunteers back to celebrate this milestone and to see how the Museum and Marion have evolved in the past 20 years to preserve river history and offer an exciting on water experience for visitors", said Mannum Dock Museum Board Chairman Rob Bowring.

“We hope to see many wooden boats and classic craft, join us for this event and take part in the on water classic to Caloote and fairy light parade on the Saturday evening”.

The All Steamed Up River Festival will be held at the Mannum Dock Museum, adjacent Arnold Park next to the ferry and Mary Ann Reserve on the 15th and 16th November 2014 from 10 to 4.00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 adults and children under 14 are free.

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