

Health priority for Gunnedah

HEALTH, arts, sport, tourism and education projects in the Gunnedah Shire have been given a boost by Shenhua's Community Fund.

Forty-seven applications were assessed by the fund committee this year for projects in the Tamworth, Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Shire council areas.

The number received was slightly lower than last year.

Shenhua chief executive officer Liu Xiang said this year's projects covered a range of community interests.

Health remained a priority in Gunnedah though.

The shire's PRAMS group was awarded \$73,000 to upgrade the maternity ward of the Gunnedah hospital, and Gunnedah Homes for the Aged receiving \$153,722 to renovate 13 bathrooms on site at the facility.

Gunnedah Conservatorium received \$151,250 to improve and upgrade the acoustics of the Gunnedah Town Hall and the purchase of sound, lighting and stage equipment.

Mr Liu said improving the acoustics of the Town

Hall would increase the usability of the hall and create a better experience for touring performers and audiences, as well as adding to the hall's attractiveness as a venue for conferences and other events.

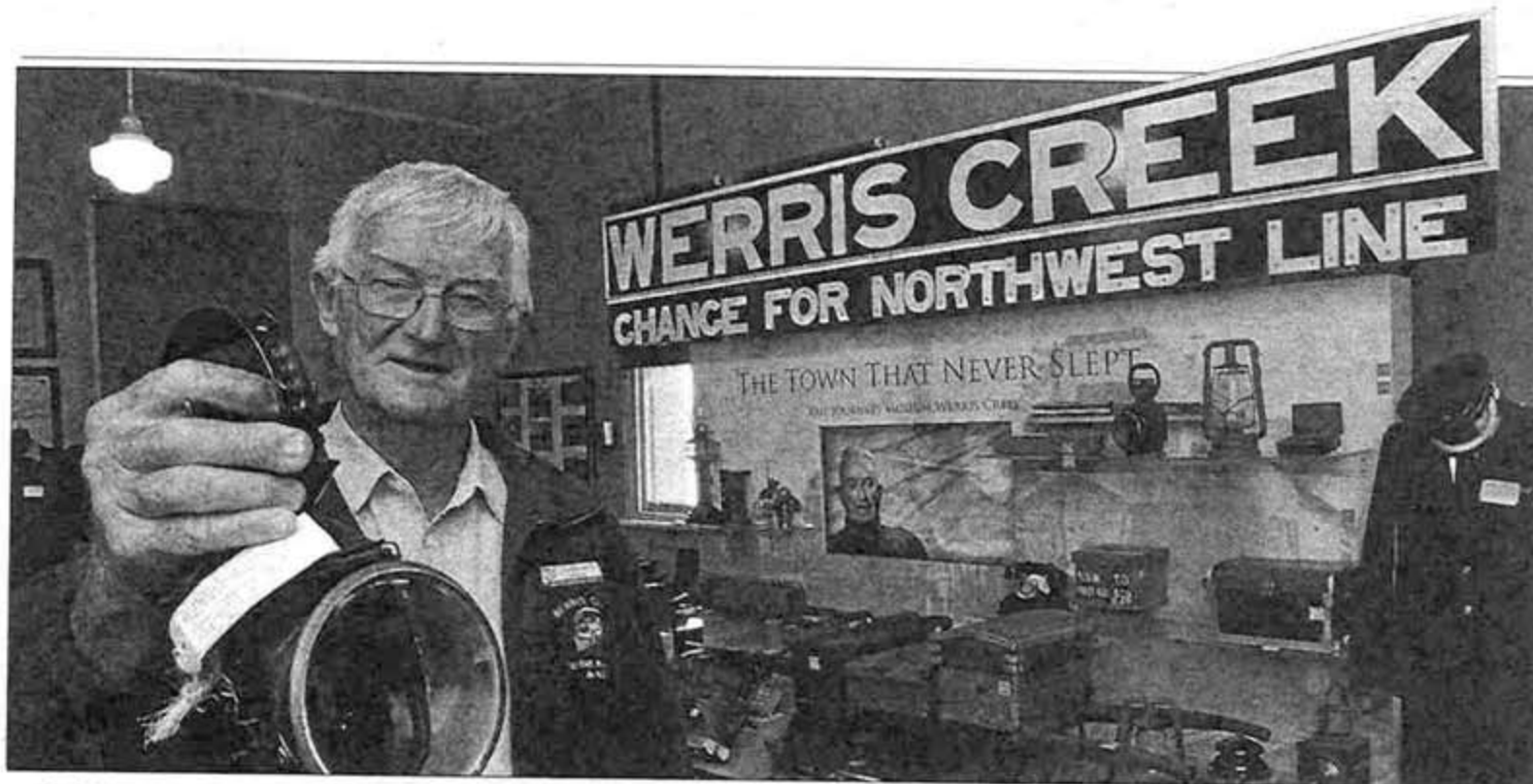
Gunnedah Early Childhood Intervention will receive \$82,374 to continue its pilot Marte Meo program.

Mr Liu said Shenhua had seen first-hand the benefits of the Marte Meo program on young children and their families, with the program having already been successful in last year's round of funding.

Gunnedah Basketball Association will upgrade the local stadium with its \$26,000.

These improvements will transform the facility into a multi-purpose centre allowing for increased usage by the community, which ties in with the council's Open Plan Strategy and the Showground Management Plan.

"We hope these improvements would not only encourage tourists to visit the area, but provide a safe environment for families to play and exercise," Mr Liu said.



ABOVE - NEW DISPLAYS: Funding from Shenhua will be used to develop new displays at the Werris Creek Railway Museum and Monument, to the delight of museum president Chris Holley. 051012G0801

RIGHT - SUGGESTED NEW LOOK: A 3D drawing of what Quirindi's Bell Park will look like following a \$200,000 redevelopment. Other equipment, not shown but included in the funded project are a whirly-go-round, g-pod spinner and Frank the Fire Truck.

