

Shed and Museum receive grants

Melanie Layton, Communications Manager with Shenhua Watermark Pty Ltd was a well received guest in Werris Creek last Friday

morning as she arrived with cheque in hand for two local projects. The Australian Railway Monument and Rail Journey Museum (ARM)

and the Werris Creek Community Shed are both recipients in the

recent round of the Watermark Community Fund, as is a play

equipment upgrade at Bell Park in Quirindi. ARM received

\$97,960 in an initiative to offer visitors improved satisfaction by expanding the displays at the museum. The provision of interactive displays that embrace modern technologies will allow the museum to attract a greater range of visitors.

Chris Holley, President ARM Management Inc. said the money received from the Watermark Community Fund will enable the ARM to provide for additional display areas to be opened up on the first floor of the museum. These displays when completed will encompass state of the art interactive audio visual presentations on standalone equipment, made up of photo slide shows, video footage and commentary which will be on 4 x 46 inch touch tables.

The story presentations will be of the development of the coal and rail industries and the interaction between the two industries with the emphasis being the 'workers story' to fit the theme of the museum.

Werris Creek Community Shed received \$118,284 from the Watermark Community Fund which will go towards providing a new and larger, community shed.

Currently the community work out of a 50-year old 'shed' in the

grounds of the Catholic Church and the long-term availability of this shed cannot be guaranteed.

This money will enable the Werris Creek Community Shed Inc. to develop a site, on Single Street and next to the Rural Fire Service shed, that will include a workshop, meeting room and amenities for volunteers.

Community Shed President Peter Cunningham said that it gives the community a place to pass on and learn new skills and work together on community projects. The new location and facilities will provide a secure location for the shed to operate and give the group a sense of ownership and long-term viability.

Shenhua Watermark representative Melanie Layton said "Shenhua is extremely pleased to be able to support these worthy projects."

"All projects met and in many cases exceeded, the Fund's criteria, providing long-term benefits in the areas of health, education, sustainability, community infrastructure and social and community development. To date, Shenhua has invested \$4 million into the Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shires," Ms Layton concluded.



Werris Creek Community Shed members (from front left) Monty Male, Barbara Phillips and Jake Thomas (front right) receiving the Shenhua Watermark Coal Pty Ltd community fund cheque from Communications Manager Melanie Layton (front middle) with support from LPSC Mayor, Councillor Ian Lobsey and shed members (from back left) Ken Stewart, Jill Gay, June Heiler, Peter Cunningham, Trevor Sevil, Barry Constable, John Hayes, Ian Phillips, Ray Brown and Helene Brennan.



Melanie Layton, Communications Manager presented the Shenhua Watermark Coal Pty Ltd community fund cheque to Chris Holley, President ARM Management Inc. with ARM volunteers (from left) Peter Holloway, Helen Powell, Gwen Hohnke, Yvonne Maloy and Ray Maloy.