



PRESS RELEASE

4 August 2008

Steaming up Broadway Festival – Wycheproof launched

The latest festival to be added to the 'must do' events calendar for northern Victoria is the *Steaming Up Broadway* Festival – Wycheproof on 11-12 October 2008. This festival of steam trains, cycling, and music will showcase the town of Wycheproof and celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of railway to the town.

Wycheproof is an oasis on the Calder Highway midway between Melbourne and Mildura and just 90 minutes from major regional centres such as Bendigo and Horsham. It is located at the gateway to the *Murray Mallee Sunset Country* tourist route, just 60 minutes south of Swan Hill.

There are many things that make Wycheproof memorable. There is the railway line running through the wide main street – Broadway, and Mt. Wycheproof the smallest registered mountain in Australia. There is a love of festivals from the famous King of the Mountain race (which was held in the 1970s and 80s), to the ever popular Mt. Wycheproof Cup Day – *Derby Day in the Country*, and the Labour Day Tennis Tournament – three days of the 'hottest' tennis you will ever play. There is the warm hospitality, the smile, and *g'day* from the locals that makes everyone visiting the town feel at home. Then there is the *diaspora* of former residents – you never know in what corner of the globe, or Australia, you will meet someone who has lived in Wycheproof or knows someone from the town.

The *Steaming Up Broadway* Festival an initiative of Wycheproof Chamber of Commerce and the town forum Wycheproof 2010 Inc, is held with the support of Buloke Shire Council and Steamrail Victoria. The Festival starts from Southern Cross Station, Melbourne, when a chartered steam train powered by the R761 locomotive will begin its journey north. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a real steam train rock you to sleep? Well this is a rare opportunity as there are sleeper berths available. If you just want to ride along and look at the stars, there are seats available for sitting passengers as well.

First stop on the trip will be breakfast, Saturday 11 October, at Charlton, where train travellers will have a chance to stretch their legs and explore this tranquil river town on the banks of the Avoca River. Mid morning it will be either on your bike or on the train as cyclists race the train to Wycheproof. Festival goers who are not travelling by rail can meet the train in Wycheproof as it steams up Broadway to a great finish.



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Once in Wycheproof, explore the town's open gardens and learn how a garden really can survive drought. Visitors can delve into Wycheproof's past at the Courthouse Museum or at Willandra Museum, take in the Paddock2Port exhibition developed by Hobsons Bay City Council, or marvel at the enormous Million Bushel Silo. Shuttle busses will ferry visitors to and from some great activities in surrounding towns and hamlets – the Rex Theatre's Art Deco Extravaganza, a celebration of the Charlton theatre's 70th anniversary, or gain a glimpse of pioneer life Mallee-style at Nullawil – and return for the spectacular Music on the Mount, from 4pm Saturday 11 October. Steam train rides will be available to the old town of Glenloth.

The ancient rocks of the smallest registered mountain will reverberate to sounds as diverse as the St. Arnaud Pipe Band, and *Falling from Grace*. The crowd will be totally warmed up when Mick Thomas and *The Sure Thing*, and other artists including Laura Jean take to the natural amphitheatre stage.

But there is more... On Sunday morning there will be the largest gathering for breakfast Wycheproof has seen and the opening of the Wycheproof Living Market and Expo.

A Sunday service in Centenary Park will be a prelude to the running of the inaugural King of the Mountain Duathlon Dash. The weekend cycling events planned by the Wycheproof Wanderer's Bike Club cater for all abilities.

Be at the King of the Mountain Duathlon Dash finish line at 10am to congratulate the winner and as the steam train leave wave goodbye to our new friends and honorary Wycheproofians.

Steaming up Broadway Festival is off-setting carbon emissions thanks to Landcare and the North Central Catchment Management Authority which are providing 1000 tree seedlings, free to festival goers.

For further information and program of events, or to book your berth on the *Steaming Up Broadway* steam train, see the Wycheproof community website www.wycheproof.vic.au or the Steam Rail Victoria website www.steamrail.com.au.

Available for interview:

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