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Media Release:

Step back in time and celebrate Henry Lawson

Locals and visitors will flock to Gulgong this June Long Weekend (6-9 June) to celebrate local born poet, Henry Lawson for the annual Henry Lawson Heritage Festival (HLHF), and Moolarben Coal is pleased to be a supporter of the event.

The festival started in 1985 as an ode to the legendary poet and writer, who spent his childhood in the town. Whether you enjoy reading poetry, a coach ride, viewing classic cars, eating fairy floss, a street parade or taking part in barrow races, there is something for all ages to enjoy.

Year-on-year the event gets bigger, uniting the community for one of the state's oldest rural festivals.

William Murphy from the Henry Lawson Society Gulgong was pleased to bring Gulgong to life for another year.

"Every June long weekend, we call for locals and visitors to step back in time to the gold rush days in Gulgong and enjoy the Henry Lawson Heritage Festival.

"There will be old time games such as jacks and hopscotch, pavement art, market stalls, a parade through the streets, cutting of Henry Lawson's birthday cake, bush dancing, and poetry and short story readings.

"We are expecting over 3,500 people to come along and have some fun at the festival, which also benefits local businesses as a great tourism boost for the weekend.

"Our goal was always to preserve and appreciate the history of Gulgong and honor the influence that the great poet and writer Henry Lawson bestowed on our region.

"We have around fifty volunteer members at the society who work hard to make this event happen every year.

"We are thankful to organisations like Moolarben Coal for their financial support to help ensure the festival keeps poetry, storytelling and visual history alive in the community," said William.

Moolarben Coal General Manager, Brian Wesley recognised the joy this event brings for the community.

"The festival is a key date on local and visitors' calendars every year, bringing history and poetry alive for everyone.

"We are proud that our \$4,000 in funding can help support an arts event that brings the community together and celebrates Henry Lawson's work and inspires people in their artistic endeavors," said Brian.

For more information and the festival program, please visit: <https://henrylawsonfestival.com.au>

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