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Media Release:

Family History Society Singleton launches book

Locals, visitors and historians can now enjoy a book about the history of the Singleton Fire Station, thanks to the literary hard work of Carol Garvie and the Family History Society of Singleton and a \$4,000 donation from Yancoal Australia's Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) operation.

Written by Carol Garvie the book, "The Formation of the Singleton Volunteer Fire Brigade and Station 444" provides the community with a detailed account of the history of the Singleton Fire Station dating back to 1878, its members through the years, the challenges creating the team in the beginning and an overarching history of Singleton.

The \$4,000 worth of funding from MTW enabled the Family History Society of Singleton to bring the writing together, format and lay it out, and an initial publication run of 100 copies that are available for purchase.

Lyn MacBain, President of the Family History Society of Singleton was very pleased to see Carol's research project come to life.

"We felt strongly about the fact that people with a connection to Singleton and the volunteer fire service would want to read and explore the book and reflect on the past.

"The Singleton Volunteer Fire Brigade has offered a lot of value to the community over the years, establishing a strong bushfire brigade that still operates to this day.

"The volunteer fire fighters are proud to donate their time to help protect and preserve our community. They regularly educate the community by hosting open days and visiting schools. The book will also be used as an educational resource for school children.

"We are excited to launch and to create interest about the book. The funds raised from book sales will go towards the maintenance of the vintage fire engine and the Family History Society of Singleton.

"Thanks to MTW for their financial assistance to get the book finalised and published. We hope it's enjoyed by the people of Singleton for many years to come," said Lyn.

Books can be purchased from the Family History Society of Singleton by contacting 0408 985 267 or famhissocsinginc@yahoo.com.au or at the Society's Library at 74 George Street, Singleton. Additionally, they are available directly through the Fire Station.

The Family History Society of Singleton has been operating for over 40 years, assisting with the research of families throughout the district. It receives enquiries from all over the country and overseas regarding people looking for family members who were connected through Singleton at some stage of their life.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager, Cris Shadbolt, was delighted to help the society.

“MTW has a long and proud history in Singleton, and we are pleased to support an initiative that aims to recognise and celebrate the rich history of one of our vital community organisations.

“Volunteer fire brigades are an essential community service, helping people when they need them the most. We are happy our funding could help their value to the community be documented and acknowledged,” said Cris.

The Mount Thorley Warkworth Community Support Program runs annually and is funded by Yancoal Australia, aiming to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the Hunter Valley.

For over 20 years since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating eight producing mines across the country, employing almost 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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