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# Media Release:

## Festival fun in Gulgong this long weekend

Locals and visitors are encouraged to step back in time and celebrate Henry Lawson this June Long Weekend (6-8 June) at the annual Gulgong Henry Lawson Heritage Festival (HLHF) in the Mid-Western Region.

Everyone is invited to discover the charm of Gulgong, celebrate storytelling and community and step back in time to the gold rush days.

The festival started in 1975 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.

This year the festival marks a special occasion, it is celebrating its 50-year anniversary and hosting a commemorative exhibition to honor this key milestone.

William Murphy from the Henry Lawson Society is excited to bring arts and culture to life in Gulgong.

“For visitors, the Henry Lawson Festival is more than an event. It is a chance to hit the road and enjoy a long weekend in a town rich with character and history.

“We have market stalls, multicultural food hubs and live music throughout Gulgong. There will also be old time games such as hopscotch, pavement art, market stalls, a parade through the streets, cutting of Henry Lawson’s birthday cake, bush dancing, and poetry.

“A highlight of the day is the Best Dressed Competition, where festivalgoers are invited to step into character and showcase their finest heritage attire.

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

“Gulgong was recently named the 2026 NSW Small Tourism Town due to its rich history, heritage streetscapes, vibrant arts scene and delicious food and wine. Therefore, we hope people come and enjoy the festival and explore our beautiful town.

“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 Acting General Manager, Tim Slater recognised the joy this event brings for the community.

“The festival offers a memorable June long weekend to enjoy festival atmosphere and celebrate Australia’s favourite poet, Henry Lawson.

“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 Tim.

For the full program and updates, visit the festival website or follow the Gulgong Henry Lawson Heritage Festival Facebook page.

Yancoal is proud to be investing into local and regional Australia, helping build stronger communities across the country.

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 over 5,500 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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