

The Gympie Times

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Luxury BMW left to burn after alleged thief flees Rainbow

BURNT OUT: A police officer at the scene of a burnt out BMW X5 near Tiare. STORY PAGE 2

PHOTO: ROBYNE CUEBEL

MARY VALLEY MINE CLOSER

Excitement at 'significant' manganese desposits **STORY P4**

SCOUTS INVADE GYMPIE FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS **STORY P4**

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NEWS

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IN BRIEF Ambassadors sought

THE interests of young Queenslanders will be better represented through an exciting new youth ambassadors program, said Communities Minister Tracy Davis. Six outstanding young leaders would be selected to represent each Queensland Youth Strategy area. "This young ambassador's program is the next step in bringing the government's strategy to life," Ms Davis said.

Nominations are open for young ambassadors aged 12 to 21 years. The six selected ambassadors will each receive a \$1000 bursary for personal or professional development. They will also be supported to attend a personal development workshop in Brisbane. For more information on the Queensland Youth Strategy Ambassadors program, including details on how to apply, visit www.qld.gov.au/youth.

Program released

THE Gympie and District Eisteddfod has released its preliminary program for the eisteddfod to be held from July 26 to August 1.

Programs are available from Gympie Musicland, 36 Mary St, Gympie. Entries close May 19.

"They also have to con-

SCOUT CAMP: HUGE TURNOUT EXPECTED FOR EASTER EVENT AT THE GYMPIE SHOWGROUNDS

Scouts ready to woggle

WHILE most families are gearing up for a visit from the Easter bunny this weekend, the Gympie District Scout leaders have been busy preparing to run a major scout camp at the Gympie Showgrounds.

More than 250 scouts and leaders - from Bundaberg to the Gold Coast - will be attending.

The camp is called Kiwi Woggle after David "Kiwi" Weir, the founder of the event.

Gympie district commissioner Carol Harris said Kiwi Woggle was a traditional scouting competition camp which originated in the Gympie District in 1946.

"This camp was last held in Gympie in 1996 when they celebrated the 50th year of the Kiwi Woggle," Mrs Harris said.

The scouts are organised into patrols of five to eight members, who are responsible for camp planning.

Leaders will transport them to the campsite but the scouts have to organize all their own equipment and food supplies.

"Scouts will do all their own meal planning, shopping, cooking and cleaning up," she said.

They have to set-up their campsites with tents, dining area, kitchen and food storage area.

"They also have to con-

struct camp gadgets from poles and ropes."

Scouts will compete for trophies based on a set of camping standards guidelines.

The campsites will be set up on Friday and while the scouts are away on Saturday and Sunday - the judges will inspect and score each site.

"Weather permitting, they'll be canoeing on the Mary River, enjoying Laser Tag challenges in the bush, and will take part in a scavenger hunt through Gympie which will end with abseiling in Mary St," Mrs Harris said.

"On their return to the showgrounds, the scouts will be able to try their hand at blacksmithing, rocket making and other activities."

A Luxembourg (see photo) has been set up for rides in the showgrounds and the Gympie Radio Club will be there to demonstrate their equipment and get the scouts ready for a planned link to the International Space Station later this year.

"This event has taken much pre-planning and behind the scenes organising and leaders from the Gympie Scout groups appreciate the community support we have received," Mrs Harris said.

"A big 'bravo' to all the businesses and organizations who have assisted us in our preparations, including numerous people at the Gympie Regional Council."



SCOUTS ARE GO: Sara Dawson tries out the Luxembourg in readiness for the Kiwi Woggle this Easter. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

'Exciting' indications for Mary mining future

MINING executives are "excited" at what they describe as "significant" prospects for manganese mining in the mountainous fringes of the Mary Valley.

Speaking from Perth yesterday, Eclipse Metals Ltd executive chairman Carl Popal told The Gympie Times he could only hope that the good news keeps on coming.

In a formally worded stock exchange announcement, the company described the valley deposits it had surveyed as "significant".

Mr Popal said the area had a history of successful mining of the metal, which he said was one of the world's most important and beneficial environmental products.

It was an important reason, he said, why cars now last longer and run more economically and had a vital role in the production of materials needed for increasingly miniaturised engineering and electronic components.

China and India were hungry buyers of the metal, used mainly in the production of

more durable and rust-resistant steels.

Mr Popal said he believed Indian steel groups had already approached the Queensland Department of State Development regarding Mary Valley manganese.

"My first car was a 1970 Holden with body work about 1.5mm thick," he said. "It was heavy and it would rust."

Cars were now made with much thinner and lighter steel that is much less inclined to rust.

"That is because of manga-

nese," Mr Popal said.

"The ore becomes a dangerous neurotoxin when exposed to water and can be mined and transported safely, so there is a benefit in removing it from the environment."

"It is our intention to ensure that anything we do is socially responsible."

"We want the benefits to go not only to our shareholders but to the local community as well."

But there is still uncertainty and a lot more exploring to

do. "It's not just a matter of turning up with excavators and starting work," Mr Popal said.

"There are a lot of forms and environmental requirements and Australia also has important workplace health and safety laws."

"It costs a lot to mine because Australia has Triple A standards," he said.

It also had a good reputation as an ethical exporter.

"Queensland has one of the strictest environmental departments in Australia," Mr

Popal said. "Other countries may have lower costs, but they have extra transport costs because we are closer to China and India."

The sites involved are only 165km from port facilities and are near the Bruce Hwy and rail transport.

"Fortunately we own about 2000s km of the tenement areas we are looking at."

The company's executive director Petro Kastellorizos said he was "excited" by what he described as a "highly prospective project."

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FATALITY

COOLOOLA COVE MAN
KILLED IN BLI BLI CRASH
STORY PAGE 4



OPINION

BILL HOFFMAN SAYS INP SHOWED
POOR JUDGMENT OVER DAVID GIBSON
STORY PAGE 8

NEW METAL ON MOOLOO MOUNTAIN

Mining company's share prices
surge with Mooloo manganese
find. **STORY PAGE 4**

Man jailed after gun found in raid

A RIFLE found at a Two Mile home be-
fore Christmas has landed a 29-year-
old criminal back in jail.

Luke Raymond Watts pleaded guilty to its possession in Gympie Magistrates Court on Tuesday, as well as possessing tools and a water pressure cleaner stolen during a break in at an industrial shed.

The court heard he had been staying at a friend's home when police raided the house and charged Watts with possessing the unloaded .22 calibre rifle and tainted property.

He said he hadn't stolen the tools and cleaner but pleaded guilty to receiving them. He also said the rifle was not his, but knew where it was after handling it earlier. It reminded him of an air rifle he had as a child.

Magistrate Maxine Baldwin told Watts the two charges were "quite serious matters, made all the more serious by your history".

She said in the 13 years since Watts turned 17, the legal age of adult offenders, he had been sentenced to 28.5 years jail, some which had been served.

He was on parole when charged for the rifle offence on December 9, and had previously received 18 months jail for drugs, tainted property and break and enter offences. He pleaded guilty on Tuesday to four charges which also included failing to correctly dispose of a needle and syringe, and breaching his bail.

He was sentenced to 12 months jail for receiving tainted property with a parole release date of August 25, four months jail followed by two years probation for possessing the weapon and two months jail suspended for two years for breaching bail.

Watts was also convicted but not further punished for failing to dispose of the syringe.

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PAGE 4

NEWS



READ THE SIGNS:
Flashing speed signs at
Monkland State School.
PHOTO: PATRICK WOODS

New signs for safety
NEW flashing school zone lights are now installed at Monkland State School to make the roads safer for students. The lights became operational last Thursday and were installed to warn motorists to slow down.

Member for Gympie David Gibson said children may not be concentrating near the roads. The signage is part of a \$10 million state government task to install the flashing signs at more than 300 schools. Between January 1 to September 30, 2013, 22,365 speeding fines were issued in school zones around the state – 24% more than the same period for 2012. Of the 22,365 speeding fines, 251 were for travelling 31-40 km/h above the speed limit and 21 issued for travelling more than 40 km/h above the limit.

The company was required by stock market regulations to seek the suspension while it prepared a report explaining the price surge.

"We have to be very careful in the wording of our announcements," executive chairman Carl Popal told The Gympie Times from his Perth office yesterday.

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Dentures are not necessarily easy things to make or wear. They require patience and perseverance from both the wearer and the maker to achieve success. Thank you to all those who have been patient and persevered and hopefully feel we have taken them to a better place.

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NEWS

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SHARES SUSPENDED AFTER MANGANESE FIND BRINGS PRICE SURGE

Mooloo Rd deposit is news to mining world

ARTHUR GORRIE
REPORTER
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MARY Valley mining hopeful Eclipse Metals Ltd has just announced a new find of manganese ore in a previously unknown deposit between Mt Mooloo and Bel Creek.

The announcement comes on top of the company's previously announced Amamoor Ridge exploration interest.

The new discovery, reported to company officials over the Anzac Day long weekend was followed by a request from company executives on Monday for a suspension of trading, after share prices more than trebled in April from 0.3c to an initial high of 1.1c.

The company was required by stock market regulations to seek the suspension while it prepared a report explaining the price surge.

"We have to be very careful in the wording of our announcements," executive chairman Carl Popal told The Gympie Times from his Perth

office yesterday. He pointed out that the announcement of the newly discovered Mooloo deposit was supported by an independent "competent person" statement by geologist George Karageorge, a member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

In a response to the ASX on Monday, company secretary Keith Bowker attributed the April share price surge to positive interest in media reports, "including in The Gympie Times newspaper" on April 16.

The article, headed "Exciting indications of Mary mining future," outlined new exploration work over historic mined areas in the Mary Valley.

That report quoted company executives who said they were "excited" at "significant" prospects for manganese exploration in the Mary Valley.

It was based on a formal stock exchange announcement by the company of new geological and geochemical exploration programs in the



IN THE ROAD: Previously undiscovered manganese deposits have been under our noses on Mooloo Rd.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Mary Valley.

Yesterday, it seemed the work had already paid off, with the reported discovery of the previously unknown manganese deposit in the

We have to be very careful in the wording of our announcements

— Carl Popal, executive chairman, Eclipse Metals Ltd

price spike except as part of a positive response to its exploration announcement, on April 15.

"The announcement has attracted positive interest from local media," company secretary Keith Bowker said in his response to ASX queries.

Share prices headed upwards on April 17, when they rose 33% to 0.4c, on trading of nearly one million units. Another 1.5 million sold on April 22 at 0.5c, followed by 1.1 million at 0.8c the next day.

They peaked at 1.1c before dropping to a closing price of 0.8c on a volume of 50,000 shares on April 29.

The new find can be seen in road cuttings in Mooloo Rd.

Driver of crumpled sedan dies

EARLY police investigations indicate that a Cooloola Coast man who died in a head-on crash at Bli Bli on Monday was driving on the correct side of the road.

Bli Bli Rd was closed for about six hours as detectives looked into the weather and road surface conditions as well as the manner in which the vehicles were travelling as part of their investigations.

A 78-year-old man, believed to have lived on Marco Polo Dr, died when his Toyota sedan collided with a Toyota four-wheel-drive being driven by a 36-year-old Bli Bli man on Monday afternoon.

Witnesses watched the

horrible events unfold as the elderly man sat behind the wheel of his crumpled car and the four-wheel-drive crashed on to its roof on impact.

A Sunshine Coast woman, who wanted to be known only as Lynn, arrived at the crash site seconds after the incident. She wanted to let the elderly man's family know every one did what they could to save his life.

"We would like the family of the elderly gentleman who lost his life to be reassured that he had the best possible help," Lynn said.

"Along with other witnesses, we controlled traffic and assisted where we could.



HORRIFIC: The crash scene on Bli Bli Rd where an elderly Cooloola Coast man died this week. PHOTO: NICOLA BRANDER

kit as a carry box.

"This lady took control while the first woman was on the phone to emergency services."

Sunshine Coast Road Policing Unit officer in charge Dave Nelson said the crash was still under investigation.

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WEEKEND

Saturday, May 3, 2014
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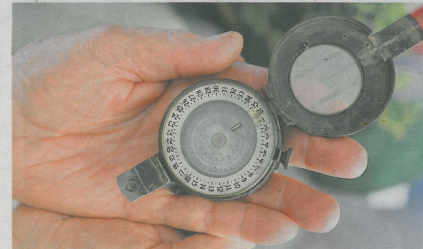


Forgotten legends

REDISCOVERING THE WEALTH OF A LOST MINING ERA. STORY PAGE 19.

GympieTimes

Saturday, May 3, 2014



A geologist's compass is not just a relic for Fred Pooley (right). It is a part of the history of his life helping an earlier generation of explorers find a wealth of mining riches in the Gympie region.

PHOTOS: RENEE FLOCHER

Mining the rich vein of knowledge in the memories of a pioneer

Fred Pooley remembers the golden age – and helps bring back some of Gympie's old mining glory by sharing with Eclipse what he knows about the history of manganese in the Mary Valley



ARTHUR GORRIE

FRED Pooley remembers a time when geologists walked the earth like the giants of a legendary age, exploring the wilderness and finding real wealth in lonely places like the mountainous fringes of the upper Mary Valley.

"These great men," he calls them. "They did the groundwork. Today a lot of the work is done in offices, selling shares."

"But I remember a different way," he said this week.

Fred remembers the long lost work of the earth scientists he helped 40 and 50 years ago, in what he remembers as a kind of golden age.

And he remembers the exact moment it all fell down, in 1970, when the hopes of a generation were washed away by the tidal stock market forces of fear and greed.

"Remember Poseidon?" he says, referring to the nickel mining bubble which helped fuel and ultimately destroyed the Australian mining boom of the 1960s.

"We were drilling for samples and the equipment jammed."

"I went to Sydney for tools to free it and before I could get back the boom was over and the job stopped."

And the knowledge disappeared. As a driller and prospector, Fred is proud to have worked with people like Jeff Woods, JH Brooks, LC Ball and other real world geologists who found many of the manganese deposits now being rediscovered by a new generation of explorers, like Western Australian George Karageorge, who has been engaged to investigate the Mary Valley's new manganese potential, for the Perth-based firm, Eclipse Metals Ltd.

"I hope they are still alive," he says, flicking through the dog-eared pages of a book detailing the results of prospecting back to 1904.

"I just found this amongst my old things," he said.

And he says other irreplaceable sources of knowledge wait, like buried ore, in the yellowing documents stored in dusty government cellars and the back rooms of university libraries.

Fred was one of the mining pioneers sought out by Eclipse to help Mr Karageorge mine a rich lode of this lost work.

Eclipse Metals' executive chairman, Carl Popal, describes exploration efforts that have been as much archaeology as geology, talking to people like Mr Pooley and uncovering the long lost knowledge of his contemporaries.

"Fred has shared with us valuable historical information on the region's mining history and locations," Mr Popal

DD
They say old men have dreams and young men have visions. I still have a dream, of young people back in this Valley, making their visions come true.

told The Gympie Times. "This information has enlightened the independent competent geologist (Mr Karageorge) assigned by our company for field assessment of the Mary Valley project."

"I like the old prospectors," said Mr Pooley, former geologist's assistant and one-time Gundahra quarry owner.

"Sometimes I can feel their presence around some of the old diggings."

Fortunately, he says their knowledge has not been lost altogether, only mislaid.

"I saw their (Eclipse's) ad in The Gympie Times and I thought if I can help I will, because I'd love to see this district going ahead again."

"They say old men have dreams and young men have visions. I still have a dream, of young people back in this Valley, making their visions come true."

And the pioneers are still here to help, at least in spirit.

As Mr Pooley told Mr Karageorge, their work is still to be found, in those long neglected maps and reports.

They are the lost relics of an age Mr Pooley will never forget.

GympieTimes

Saturday, May 3, 2014