



## Coming Events

### Way Forward Thru Stories

**Exhibition**  
27 March - 14 April  
Opening 31 March  
An exhibition of artworks created during the Aboriginal Arts and Culture Workshops held in February.  
Eskbank House Museum  
Ph: 6351 3557

### The Life and Times of Harold

28 March to 30 April  
Drawings from David Newman-White.  
A very impressive display that should not be missed.  
Lithgow Library Learning Centre  
Ph: 6352 9100

### Waste2Art 2013

17 April - 5 May  
Opening 21 April  
Exhibition of artworks created by Lithgow LGA artists using recycled materials.  
Eskbank House Museum  
Ph: 6351 3557

### Ironfest

20 - 21 April  
Saturday 9am - 6pm  
Sunday 10am - 4pm  
Tony Luchetti Showground  
Ph: 6353 1638  
www.ironfest.com.au

### Uncompromising

8 May - 2 June  
Opening 11 May  
An exhibition of artworks by local artist group "Artists of the Vale"

### Lithgow Photographic Group

**Exhibition**  
5 - 30 June  
Opening 9 June  
An Exhibition of photography by Lithgow Photographers.

### Weekly Activities

at Lithgow Library Learning Centre

- Children's Storytime - Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30am.
- Home Work Zone - Monday to Thursday 3.30 - 5.30pm
- Knitting Group - Thursday 9.30am  
Ph: 02 6352 9100

## Blue Mountains Crossing Commemorations

May - June 2013

**The beginning of the Bicentenary Commemorations for the Crossings of the Blue Mountains to Hartley and beyond begin this year with events from Cox's Road walks and horse rides to exhibitions and even a Fly Over.**

The Crossings of the Blue Mountains were a series of events of great national significance that saw the expansion of permanent colonial settlement into the inland and the birth of Australia's bush culture.

- 1813 - The first recognised European crossing of the Blue Mountains, undertaken by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth, and subsequent survey of the terrain by George Evans.
- 1814 - The building of the road from Emu Plains to Bathurst by William Cox and convict labourers.
- 1815 - Governor Macquarie's expedition along the length of the 165-kilometre road and his founding of the colony's first major inland settlement of Bathurst.

Planning for a variety of events and projects from 2013-2015 are underway and will commence in Hartley.

Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation is working with the different organisations to ensure that the Wiradjuri perspective is represented.

Many of the projects are being organized by the Hartley District Progress Association 1813 Committee with Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust and Hartley Historic Village (National Parks and Wildlife Services) also planning events. Lithgow City Council is supporting these organisations financially and through their staff to ensure a great range of activities for the community.

The Lithgow community is invited to share with Hartley the adventures and stories of the

Blue Mountain's Crossings and remember the people and places that have made such an impact on the history of Lithgow and Australia.

### "A Moment in Time"

**18 May to 16 June 2013  
Hartley School House**

An exhibition of images in and around Hartley created around the times of the initial crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. Paintings and drawings will tell the stories and adventures of Aboriginal crossings, explorers and settlers with Joan Kent, curator, available to talk about her extensive research into the crossings. This is a wonderful exhibition for school groups to learn about the crossings in an interesting and visual way.

### Cox's Road - Walks and Rides

Horse Rides	Walks
18-19 May	25, 26 and 30 May
15-16 June	2 and 9 June

For those with a more "active" interest, walks and horse rides along part of Cox's Road (the first road across the Blue Mountains and out to Bathurst) are being planned.

These walks and rides are a unique opportunity to experience the Cox's Road as much of it is on private property and not accessible to the general public. Contact the Hartley Saddlery for details and bookings on 6355 2165.

### Blue Mountains Bicentenary Fly Over

**Saturday 25 May**

Australia's Largest Fly Over will zoom over the Blue Mountains and Hartley Valley following the route of the explorers from Penrith through to O'Connell. Butler's Property on Jenolan Caves Road in Hartley will offer an unparalleled view

of the planes as they cross Mt York, fly right overhead and out west. More details on the time and how to get to Butler's Property will be released closer to the date.

### Crossings!

Wendy Blaxland, a descendant of Gregory Blaxland, has written a play about the crossings of the Blue Mountains especially for these celebrations. A large part of the history of the crossings is carried on through the descendants of local Aboriginals, explorers, settlers and convicts who crossed over and through the Blue Mountains and Hartley.

Crossings!, the play, tells the stories of these adventurers. The play will be performed for Lithgow schools and a performance for the rest of the public is being arranged in the Lithgow area.

### Monument Dedication

**Saturday 1 June**

The 1 June 1813, was the day Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson ended their journey and headed back to Sydney. Two hundred years later the day is being commemorated with the dedication of a monument in Hartley Historic Village and a celebration at the Hartley School House.

### Hartley Vale Cemetery Tour

**Sunday 2 June**

Hartley Vale Cemetery at the base of Mt York contains the graves of many of the district's pioneer families. The Hartley Vale and Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust takes care of the cemetery and will be giving guided tours and telling the stories of those buried in this special place.

[www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)  
[www.bluemountainscrossings.com.au](http://www.bluemountainscrossings.com.au)

## There's Nothing like Australia's History Community Milestones

**To celebrate the National Trust Heritage Festival 2013 the Lithgow Library Learning Centre will host an exhibition of historic photographs and artefacts with the theme of Community Milestones from 18 April - 31 May.**

- Friday 19 April - 5pm - Opening and guest speaker Ian Jack on Andrew Brown.
- Friday 26 April - 5pm - Guest Speaker Tony Griffiths on Douglas Grant.
- Friday 3 May - 5pm - Ian Rufus at the Bowenfels Gun Emplacements (TBC).
- Friday 10 May - 5pm - Guest Speaker Shannon Lyons on Local Bottles
- Friday 17 May - 5pm - Guest Speaker Greg Patmore on 1922 Ironworks Strike
- Friday 24 May - 5pm - Guest Speaker Mark Langdon on Fire Station.
- Friday 31 May - 5pm - To be confirmed.

For details contact the Lithgow Library Learning Centre on 6352 9100.  
**Open 9am - 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12 noon Saturday**

Follow Lithgow City Council on



[www.facebook.com/LithgowCityCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LithgowCityCouncil)

# Lithgow Council Connections

March 2013  
Edition



Maree Statham  
Mayor

**Presenting the local citizenship awards and welcoming our newest Australian Citizens instilled me with great pride and enthusiasm for the future of the Lithgow Local Government Area.**

This year, I was pleased to announce Howard Fisher and Peter Potts as joint winners of the Citizen of the Year Award; Howard has spent a life time working for the people of Lithgow, fighting for their rights and ensuring the best for all members of the community and Peter, a founding member and President of the Lithgow Men's Shed Project has seen the creation of an invaluable organisation and facility aimed at improving the social wellbeing and health of men in the area.

I would also like to congratulate Allan Cronin, Young Citizen of the Year and Gorrie Ban, Community Event of the Year.

Due to wet weather conditions, the Lithgow Flash Gift to be held in February was postponed. The Committee is now looking to hold the event later in the year.

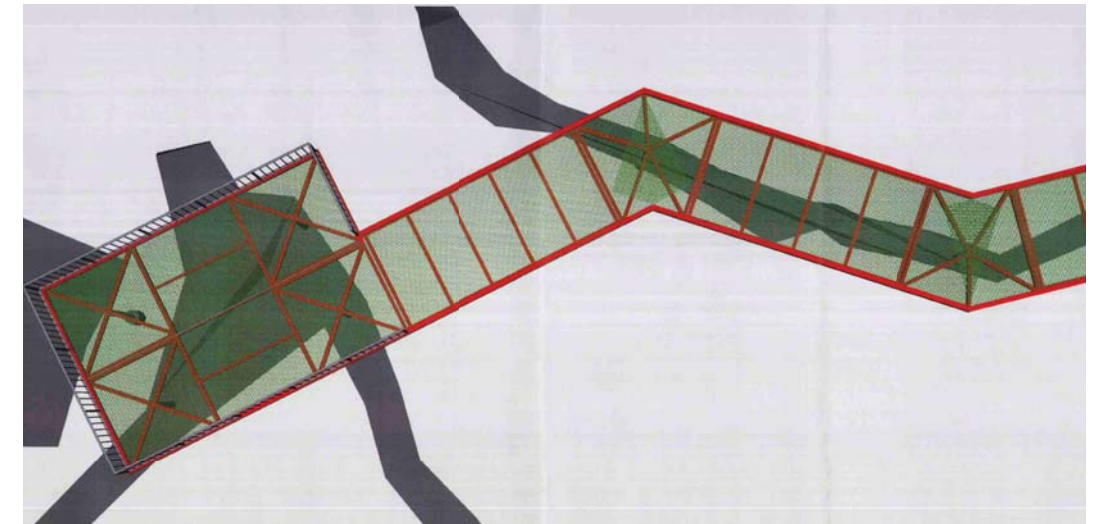
Recent Major flooding in the area has caused havoc to local roads and infrastructure. Council has applied to have the area declared a natural disaster area and for \$800,000 in flood damage funding to undertake restoration of public infrastructure.

During these times, Council staff do the best they can to work efficiently however, due to increased work loads this can mean that scheduled works are delayed.

Andrew Stoner MP, Deputy Premier of NSW recently announced that the Lithgow local government area is now eligible to apply for funding for infrastructure projects under the Resources for Regions Program established for mining affected communities. Council will be submitting an Expression of Interest to apply for funding under this program.

The NSW State Government has appointed a Review Panel to seek input from Council's and the community in relation to reform. The Panel will be investigating and identifying options for governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes for local government in NSW. I know many in the community are concerned that this may lead to Lithgow being forced to amalgamate with a neighbouring Council. Lithgow Council will be making a submission to the panel regarding the future of local government and opposing amalgamation for our Council. The community is also invited to 'Have Your Say' on the future of local government in NSW by completing the online survey on the Independent Local Government Review Panel website <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au>

## Road and Lookout Upgrades



Concept design for the Hassans Walls Board Walk.

**Improved access at Hassans Walls Lookout will make it easier to take in the views of the magnificent Hartley Valley.**

Council has engaged Steelworks Engineering to design and construct an 80m boardwalk commencing at the start of the existing path near the picnic shelter and extending to a 25m square viewing platform near Padley's Trig Station.

Sympathetic to the environment the boardwalk will be raised to ensure minimum disturbance of vegetation and to maximise viewing.

The recently completed Hassans Walls Flora and Fauna Study has identified three plant species in this uniquely bio-diverse site, all of which are on the Rare or Threatened Australian Plants list; the *Leptospermum Blakelyi*, *Acacia Asparagoides* and *Pseudanthus Divaricatissimus*. In addition three threatened bird species have been recorded in the area, the Gang-gang Cockatoo, Scarlet Robin and Little Lorikeet and one threatened microbat species; the Eastern Bentwing Bat.

The boardwalk will confine the impacts to the site, such as trampling of vegetation which are currently experienced over a wide area. Delineation of the parking areas will also protect the vegetation adjacent to these locations.

This is the second lookout to be upgraded with Bracey Lookout having been completed late last year.

**Pearsons Lookout overlooking the picturesque Capertee Valley is also to receive a major upgrade.**

Pearsons Lookout, is a major tourist drawcard to the area overlooking the picturesque Capertee Valley; the widest enclosed valley in the world and home to the highly endangered Regent Honeyeater.

Funding has recently been received from the State Government for the upgrade of Pearsons Lookout as follows:

- \$100,000 has been allocated for the upgrade of the access into and out of Pearsons Lookout from the Castlereagh Highway by Roads & Maritime Services.
- \$60,000 has been allocated for upgrade of the Lookout.

Council is currently liaising with representatives from Capertee and the Capertee Valley on works to be undertaken at the lookout which will compliment the informational and interpretive signage currently being developed for installation in Clarence Pirie Park at Capertee.

### Wolgan Road Upgrade

**A \$4.2 Million upgrade of approximately 14.2km of Wolgan Road commencing from near the Emirates Resort & Spa and heading west back toward the Wolgan Gap Hill is underway.**

The works will benefit residents, visitors and

tourists to the Wolgan Valley improving safety and travel conditions.

The works will be undertaken opportunistically and are expected to be completed over a 12 month period. 5 separate stages of 2.8km sections, commencing from near the Emirates Resort & Spa heading west back toward the Wolgan Gap Hill will be undertaken. During this period, landowner consultation will be undertaken so that disruptions to traffic are kept to a minimum.

The construction project will extend from where the existing bitumen seal stops at the bottom of Wolgan Gap, to the existing causeway located approximately 200m past the Emirates Resort entrance. The upgrade will include:

- the provision of a 7 meter wide pavement (two coat seal) over the entire 14.2km length of works
- maintenance of the causeway to remove accumulated sediment that currently blocks flows through the existing culverts
- installation of road signage
- select and localised vertical alignment works to help improve site distances; and
- the provision of improved drainage through the installation of new and/or bigger culverts to prevent ponding and to minimise sedimentation and erosion.

In conjunction with the road works Council will also be finalising the widening extension upgrade on the bridge. The work provide for dual vehicle passage across the existing creek. Further road approach re-alignment works to both sides of the bridge will be undertaken upon the relocation of an existing power pole and overhead power cables.



Recent roadworks - Browns Gap Road at Fields Road.



180 Mort Street  
PO Box 19  
Lithgow NSW 2790  
Tel: 1300 661 033 or 6354 9999  
Fax 6351 4259  
council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au

### Lithgow Visitors Centre

Tel: 02 6350 3230  
tourism@lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
www.tourism.lithgow.com

### Eskbank House Museum

Tel: 02 6351 3557  
eskbank@lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
www.lithgow.com/eskbank

### Lithgow Library Learning Centre

Tel: 02 6352 9100  
lithgow.library@lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
www.learningcentre.lithgow.com



### Council Meeting Dates

**Monday 15 April  
Monday 6 May  
Monday 27 May  
Monday 17 June  
Monday 8 July  
Rate installment Due  
31 May 2013**





## Motorcycle Touring Guide

Lithgow City Council has set new benchmarks in the tourism and events sector with the launch of the Lithgow Motorcycle Touring Guide.

Guy Stanford from the Motorcycle Council of NSW said "Lithgow has now set the benchmark for the rest of NSW with this guide. Riders will appreciate the depth of local riding and tour information and proper maps".

The Lithgow region is popular with motorcycle touring and with the close proximity to Sydney, Council has targeted this growing niche market with a high quality guide featuring information on the region. The guide has received high praise from the motorcycle industry and complements the Lithgow Visitors Guide.

Copies of the guide can be obtained from Lithgow, Blue Mountains and Central West Visitor Information Centres and motorcycle shops.

## High Praise for Council in an international magazine

Wallerawang and Lithgow has featured in the December VMX magazine with the coverage of the Suzuki Dirt Classic held late last year in Wallerawang.

The VMX magazine is distributed in over 30 countries including America, Europe and the United Kingdom. Mr Ken Smith, Editor, part owner of VMX Magazine and organiser of the Suzuki Classic Dirt 9 event said "Lithgow Council were indeed part of the reason for the success of the event, they were helpful right from the word go - with the development application, with contacts for local service providers, with advice on pretty much everything local actually, they were a joy to deal with from go to whoa. Other local governments should take a leaf out of Lithgow's book of really helping the local community".

Lithgow City Council and Lithgow Tourism will continue to support and attract events that bring an economic and cultural benefit to the region and the community.



Robert Park (Events Officer), Mayor Maree Statham, Paul Riley from Skill Motorcycle Services and Kym Snow, Road Safety Officer at the Launch of the Motorcycle Touring Guide.



Riders at the Suzuki Classic 9 Dirt Bike Challenge held at Wallerawang last year.



Way Forward Thru Art Watercolours Workshop held on 13 February. Artworks on exhibition at Eskbank House Museum from 27 March to 14 April.



Remnants of Cox's River Road, along which the walks and horse rides will traverse as part of the Blue Mountains Crossing Celebrations in May and June.



Lithgow Museum's Networking Group meeting at Simmo's Museum in Glen Davis.



Mayor Maree Statham with Joint Australia Day Citizen of the Year recipients Howard Fisher and Peter Potts.



Lithgow Live@Lunchtime - Community Performances and markets in Cook Street Plaza each Thursday in the lead up to Christmas

# Our Place... Our future - Creating vibrant public spaces

## 2012 Mayor's Christmas Appeal - A huge success!

The response to the 2012 Mayor's Christmas Appeal went beyond expectations and Mayor Maree Statham would like to thank the community for their generous contributions.

Major donations were received from the Lithgow Vale Ladies Club, the Staff at Lithgow High School, the Lithgow RSL Sub Branch and the Hartley Vale Mt Blaxland Reserve Trust. Gifts were distributed to the residents at Tanderra Nursing Home, Coinda Nursing Home, Three Tree Lodge and Tabulam Cottages by the Mayor, who personally met each of the residents and toured the facilities.

Due to the overwhelming response to the appeal, Council was able to contribute gifts on behalf of the community to the Christmas and Beyond Luncheon arranged by the Lithgow Christian Fellowship on Christmas Day.

## Bringing the Library to you!

The development of a Housebound Library Service at Portland is an exciting new venture from Lithgow City Council and the Lithgow Library Learning Centre.

This service enables those who are housebound to access a wide range of library services.

Whether due to illness, permanent or temporary disability, or being a full-time carer the Home Library Service will meet with you to discuss your needs and will deliver books and other materials to you at home.

This service is initially being made available to residents of Portland as a pilot program to gauge interest and need before it is launched to the greater Lithgow community.

If you, or someone you know, qualifies for this service please contact

**Kellie Drengenberg or Maureen Breckell on 6352 9100**

## Literary Institute to Library to College



When it was opened in 1927, the Charles Hoskins Memorial Institute "was described as one of the best of its kind in Australia" (NSW State Heritage Inventory Form - Sydney Morning Herald 1927).

Construction has commenced on the refurbishment of local landmark, the Charles Hoskins Institute (Old Library) by the University of Western Sydney.

Originally opened in December 1927, The Charles Hoskins Memorial Institute has served many generations of Lithgow residents. This wonderful old building, was built to commemorate one of Lithgow's most successful businessmen, Charles H. Hoskins (1851-1926) an 'Ironmaster and Pioneer of Industry'.

At a cost of £20,000, the building was a gift from the Hoskins family to Lithgow.

The original facility housed a large library, reading room, two lecture-rooms, a large hall for dancing, meetings, concerts, a kitchen, committee room for the librarian and various organisations, gymnasium, three card rooms, billiard-rooms, large storeroom and caretaker's residence.

In 1939 the Library Act was passed with provisions for 'rate supported free public libraries'. Following acceptance by the Institute of a proposal by the Lithgow Municipal Council to establish a free reference library the Lithgow City Library was established. The Lithgow Children's Library opened in October 1945.

The facility continued to operate as a Library until 2004 when the Library

was moved to its current location in Main Street.

Until recently, the building maintained its social role within the community and was used by the Lithgow Theatre Group for storage of costumes and props, the Lithgow Musical Society as dressing area during productions in the adjoining Union Theatre, the Senior Citizens Group used one of the rooms to meet weekly, the gym still operated and the Caretakers residence was used as rental accommodation.

Now, the building is getting a new lease of life and will once again become an important social and educational facility in the community as it is transformed into the Lithgow College Campus of the University of Western Sydney (UWS).

Once complete, this \$8million refurbishment will house flat floor teaching spaces, a tiered lecture theatre/auditorium, a library and resource centre, an IT kiosk, plus student services and recreational spaces.

The facility will initially cater to 100 students with the potential to grow to 300 in time. Key courses on offer will include first year and associate degree programs in business, construction management, and engineering with short courses for managers and non school leaver students providing pathways to postgraduate studies.

## Debt Free Lithgow

A community event providing people with free legal advice regarding their fines, work and development orders and debt was held in Cook Street Plaza during February.

Recent research conducted by the State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO) highlighted Lithgow as an area with high SDRO debt. As such Lithgow was included in a series of information sessions conducted regionally to raise awareness of options available for people in debt.

The two free information sessions were provided in Cook Street Plaza on 13-14 February with representatives from Elizabeth Evatt Legal Centre, NSW Legal Aid, SDRO and the Roads and Maritime Services.

Following the sessions, Ellie Macdonald, Paralegal in the Civil Law Branch of Legal Aid NSW said "It was a great couple of days, we got to see a fair few clients and spread the word to organisations about Legal Aid and fines. Lithgow Council was absolutely amazing! We have been to a few towns on our travels and Lithgow Council has been the best by far! You have a great team there."

## Litter - It's in Your Hands!

Tackling the environmental problem of roadside litter and uncovered loads requires a mixture of education and enforcement and Council is declaring war on litter and is conducting a major anti-littering campaign.

Litter, particularly roadside litter, is a blight on the environment and Council is putting out a clear message to both residents and people passing through the Lithgow area that it will not be tolerated.

Council will be specifically targeting areas identified as litter 'hot spots' such as roadside rest areas, locations near fast food outlets and roads in the vicinity of waste disposal facilities. Council wants to raise awareness first, but if litterers are caught on the spot fines will be issued.

Council Rangers and Environment Officers have the authority to fine people for littering on the streets with fines between \$200 for littering and \$489 for waste from

uncovered loads. Signs will be erected at various locations advising of the campaign and the penalties that may apply.

Raising awareness and educating the public with the slogan 'Litter it's in your hands' is designed to make people think about being responsible and caring for their environment and community by disposing of litter in bins and covering loads of waste. However, if people still choose to litter then they can expect to be penalised.

Scavenging of goods from tips is prohibited due to occupational health and safety risks. Penalties apply for removal of goods from Council's waste facilities.

## Protect our Waterways Be Septic Safe

Failing septic systems can pollute stormwater, rivers and groundwater - so there's another good reason to keep your septic system working well.

It is recommended that you desludge your Septic System every 3-5 years. Desludging the tank unnecessarily can be costly and may prevent your system from working efficiently.

Recent studies have indicated that grey water (washing machine water, shower water, basin waters) can contain high levels of potentially dangerous pathogens. All grey water must go to the septic tank. All toilet wastes should go to the septic tank.

If your sewage management system is failing, Council may issue you with an Order under the Local Government Act 1993 or take alternative action to ensure that the problems with your system are rectified.

## Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

To meet the present and future needs of residents and tourists, Council aims to provide a safe road environment and ensure a co-ordinated approach to transport planning.

Council has engaged engineering consultancy Cardno to undertake a

Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) for the stretch of the Great Western Highway that runs through Lithgow.

A PAMP will help to focus state and Council investment in safe, convenient and coherent pedestrian infrastructure on key pedestrian routes with the aim to encourage people to walk or cycle, rather than use their cars for short trips. It will help to plan a road network that caters to the needs of all pedestrians including older persons, pedestrians with mobility and vision impairments and school children.

This study will be focused on the section of the Great Western Highway through Lithgow Between Magpie Hollow Road and Lockyer Street. This area already has a high level of pedestrian activity due to the nearby residential areas, the Lithgow Hospital, La Salle Academy, churches and service station and this is likely to grow in the future due to new developments occurring to the west of the highway.

If you would like to know more about the study contact Council's Road Safety Officer, Kym Snow on 6354 9999.

## Lithgow Museums Networking Group

The Lithgow area is a hidden gem of history and heritage. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy the history of one of the most fascinating areas in Australia through the many museums, historic sites and heritage organisations. From Hartley to Glen Davis there are sites and museums to learn about Aboriginal, convict, mining, social, railway and factory history.

The Lithgow Museums Networking Group has been formed so museum staff and volunteers can work together to present a combined museums experience to visitors and locals. Each month the group meets at a different museum and plans group events and problem solves museum issues.

This year the group plans to run combined events for visitors and to attend several community events to promote the museums. A stall with information on the museums and a "What is it?" with mystery objects will be taken to Daffodils at Rydal, Back to Hartley and other Lithgow events.

International Museums Day in May and Volunteers Thank You Day in December will be celebrated by the museums.

Each museum in the group offers a different aspect and experience of Lithgow's history.

Hartley Historical Village is the well-preserved remains of one of the first rural settlements west of the Blue Mountains and offers visitors an opportunity to see what life was like for early settlers in the Lithgow Area.

Lithgow Small Arms Museums presents the story of the birthplace of Australia's modern manufacturing industry and has a world class gun collection.

At Lithgow Library Learning Centre visitors and locals can investigate the history of Lithgow in the Local History Section.

Eskbank House and Museum showcases the social history of Lithgow with a large collection of furniture, household and blacksmithing items all in the beautiful gardens and buildings of one of Lithgow's oldest properties.

During Open Days at Lithgow State Mine Railway visitors can explore the railway workshops and climb on board heritage locomotives and other rolling stock that is under restoration.

The story of mining in Lithgow is told through the exhibitions and buildings of Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park. Their new exhibition "Fire in the Mine" is an exciting new addition to the museum experience at the Heritage Park with a spectrovision retelling of the story of a terrible fire in the Lithgow State Mine.

The Lithgow and District Family History Society provides research resources, and collects and preserves the stories of the families of Lithgow.

Delta Energy Expo tells the story of the electricity industry in Lithgow.

Simmo's Museum out at Glen Davis is a private museum and contains a life time collection of social history dating back to the turn of the century. John Simpson has a million things to show and as many stories to tell.

Newnes Hotel has a collection of objects from the history of the Shale Mine at Newnes and is set in the stunning Wolgan Valley.

Rydal Village Association is developing a history walk throughout their picturesque village which will turn the whole area into an outdoor museum.

Whether you are interested in machines and mining or history and family there is a museum in Lithgow for you. Come and enjoy a chat with the many volunteers who love to tell the stories of their museums and would love to hear yours in return.

[www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au)