



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday 28 March 2014

Scenic World unveils Australia's first steam clock

A custom designed clock powered by steam, visually depicting the history of coal mining in the Jamison Valley, will be unveiled to the public at Scenic World on Friday 28 May 2014.

The only clock of its kind in Australia has been gifted to Scenic World by Blue Mountains tourism pioneer and former Managing Director of the family attraction, Philip Hammon.

Working closely with Landmark Clocks International in Canada to achieve the visually spectacular and intriguing timepiece, Philip says it will provide a spectacular impression for visitors arriving at Scenic World, renowned for the steepest railway journey in the world at 52 degrees.

The steam clock is positioned in a new public observation area opposite the attraction's entry and features three large clock faces decorated with miniature picks and shovels – miners tools from the 19th century.

The design by Mr Hammon and Raymond Saunders of Landmark Clocks International includes a world globe with fibre optic lights highlighting major cities. The base features a miniature model re-enacting the steam driven coal mining history of the site with its double incline, hauling coal from the rainforest floor to the clifftop.

Mr Hammon, who has a personal collection of 47 clocks, said the inspiration for the steam clock came after a holiday in Vancouver in 2004 when he saw the famous steam powered clock in the historic Gastown precinct.

"We already had steam at Scenic World for our natural gas fired boilers, that will now supply the clock with the required steam for operation," Mr. Hammon said.

"I think it's fair to say that we always like to offer a surprise for our visitors at Scenic World, now jointly managed by my children David and Anthea Hammon."

Mr. Hammon said the clock is wound by a miniature live steam, two cylinder engine, hauling a coal skip up the scale model incline. The weight of the coal skips then drives the clockwork mechanism. The clock is rewound every 30 minutes at the signal of the tiniest of the 11 steam whistles.

The steam whistle assembly on the roof of the clock plays sections of 'Waltzing Matilda' on the quarter and half hours, and the full chorus on the hour, accompanied by the large central bull whistle to mark the number of hours at the time.

The new steam clock has been gifted a little more than 12 months since the unveiling of the \$30m redeveloped Scenic Railway - the world's steepest passenger train. Scenic World also features the Scenic Skyway, the highest Skyway in Australia at 270 metres; the longest elevated boardwalk in the Southern Hemisphere at 2.4km, and the steepest aerial cable car in the Southern Hemisphere.

For more information contact:

- Australia PR Director - Michelle Grima
mg@australiapr.com.au
T. +61 416 114 911