

EHV & Mechanical Branch, Engineers Victoria - Notice of Meeting

Date: 16th April 2009 **Time:** 5.30 for 6.00 p.m

Event Title: The 1860 "Kirkstall Forge" Steam Hammer and Billet Crane at Newport Railway Workshops - Can They be Restored to Working Order?

Speakers/ Presenters: Owen Peake, Bill Jordan and Carl Doring

Venue: Engineers Australia John Connell Auditorium, 21 Bedford Street, North Melbourne

Hosts: Engineering Heritage Victoria and the Mechanical Branch of Engineers Victoria.

About the Subject:

The 1860 "Kirkstall Forge" Steam Hammer and Billet Crane at the Newport Railway Workshops have been identified as being of international significance. The steam hammer was built only 20 years after the first steam hammer was invented. No other steam hammer and crane of comparable age are known to exist in the world. They are potentially Australia's most important industrial relics.

Owen Peake will describe the Steam Hammer and Billet Crane and discuss their importance. Carl Doring and Bill Jordan will discuss a similarly rare and important industrial relic, the "Craven Bros." Rope Drive Crane in the former Honeysuckle Point Railway Workshops in Newcastle - its discovery and the organisation of its restoration to working order and subsequent operation by a volunteer group of engineers. If sufficient interest is shown in the Steam Hammer and Billet Crane, it is proposed to form a volunteer group to protect these very significant pieces of machinery and restore them to working order.



About the Speakers:

Owen Peake is an electrical engineer who is an Honorary Fellow of Engineers Australia and the National Chair of Engineering Heritage Australia. He has recently moved from the Northern Territory to live in Victoria. He is the Australian Membership Secretary and Editor of the *International Stationary Steam Engine Society* Bulletin.

Bill Jordan is a consulting civil/structural engineer in Newcastle and present editor of the EHA Newsletter. He heads up the volunteer group which operates the historic "Craven Bros." Rope Drive Crane he will discuss.

Carl Doring is a mechanical engineer with a Master's Degree in Industrial Archaeology gained at the University of Birmingham and Ironbridge Institute in the UK. Carl discovered and assessed the Steam Hammer and Billet Crane when he did a Heritage Study of Newport Workshops in 1988. He also discovered and assessed the Rope Drive Crane when the Dorings did a Heritage Study of the Honeysuckle Point Workshops in Newcastle in 1990.

This talk will be of special interest to steam engine enthusiasts, those interested in industrial heritage and railway enthusiasts.