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## **PRESS RELEASE**

SteamFest is taking shape in the sleepy picturesque town of Sheffield. The March long weekend sees the town come alive with visitors from throughout Tasmania and interstate all coming to immerse themselves into the splendor of the steam era.

Already oats have been harvested into sheaves with the aid of a horse drawn McCormick Deering reaper and binder which the SteamFest committee have purchased and brought to life after 7 years languishing in a shed at Weetah.



*Caption: Laurie Connors hauls the binder while Peter Martin operates the controls at Barrington.*

The sheaves will be processed by a steam operated threshing drum into sacks of feed oats and a chaff cutter will cut others sacks of chaff which will be sold during the SteamFest weekend of March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. The straw from the operation will be baled using a hand fed steam driven stationary baler using wire ties. Bales will also be for sale as a fundraiser for further development of the site.

“SteamFest is our major fundraiser and we hope to open seven days a week as a tourist attraction following further development of the Sheffield site,” said Mr Martin – The President of the SteamFest committee. “The latest development is the planned construction of a \$72,000 18 x 20m storage shed which will be started after SteamFest. The shed will provide secure storage for engines and other machinery and following expansion it will become a museum display hall.”

Apart from the working steam era displays the crowds will also be entertained with tractor pulling, horse drawn ploughing, food and craft stalls, children’s side shows – including the return of the Spreyton Scouts pole frame hurdy gerdy, military vehicles including a British army tank and a Bovis anti aircraft gunnery display.

On the music line up we will have Highland pipes and drums from Launceston on the Saturday, Latrobe Federal Band on the Sunday and Shirl Brown playing C&W for the three days along with Mr Max Clarke on the button accordion.

For the days entertainment it costs \$30 for the family (3 children), or \$15 for adults, \$10 for concession card holders and \$5 for children.

**END**

**For more information contact**

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Or refer to [www.redwater.org.au](http://www.redwater.org.au)**