Mt Kembla Heritage Centre’s Uncertain Future

Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Inc has its annual general meeting next Tuesday evening, 20th February 6.30pm at the Mt Kembla Heritage Centre. Its future is on the line. Circumstances dictate that the current committee will not be able to continue. Without new committee members, new energy and vision to take the group forward, it will be time to close the books after 16 years of valuable community engagement focused around the Mt Kembla Mine disaster story and Mt Kembla’s mining and social heritage.

In that time a significant collection of heritage objects and documents has been donated. As Chairperson, Elizabeth Roberts says: “We didn’t set out to become the keepers of such valuable items. Unfortunately, we don’t have a permanent home for them. Most of the collection is housed in the current Mt Kembla Heritage Centre. Attractive as it may be, it is a rented property. The reality is that it is not sustainable.”

Ms Roberts acknowledges that, to date the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program has funded the rent for 8 of the almost 10 years the Heritage Centre has been open. During this time the Centre has provided interesting experiences for the many tour groups that have visited and the students from K to tertiary level who have used the facility. The Centre has housed special displays set up for the monthly Open Days on topics as varied as Valentine’s Day and World War I soldiers who came from the area. All this has taken a considerable amount of time and effort by a few dedicated volunteers and helped residents better understand the history of their village and the effects of the mining disaster in 1902.

Ms Roberts is appealing to anyone with a passion for local history who can commit to helping secure this group’s future to come to the meeting on 20th February at the Heritage Centre on Cordeaux Road and / or contact her, Elizabeth Roberts on 0402 482 997.