



SHANTYTOWN CHRONICLE

The new Shantytown experience update - July 2009

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Welcome to the winter edition of Shantytown's Chronicle.

In this issue the next attraction, the new foundry experience, is featured

Introduction to the Foundry experience



Above: Graphic impression of the new foundry building

Having successfully opened the new Sawmill experience in June 2008, planning for Shantytown's next new feature, a foundry building, is well underway.

Foundries were a pillar of the extractive industries which developed the West Coast, providing and repairing equipment for goldmines, sawmills, coal mines, shipping, railways and others. In the same way the Infants Creek sawmill has been used to tell regional sawmilling stories, the foundry will present the golden age of ironwork and steam.

Visitors will be able to enter the industrial world of the early 1900s and experience the heat, smell and, to some extent, the noise of a foundry in action.

"This will be a unique chance to step into an industrial world that was such an important part of the community and which, today, has almost entirely disappeared in the developed world" Redevelopment Project Manager Jackie Gurden reported.

The style and theme of the new foundry building has been modeled on the Dispatch Foundry established in Greymouth in 1873. Interpretation is being designed by Shantytown's curator Julia Bradshaw. Within the building the wider story of foundry work on the West Coast will be told. Visitors will be introduced to molten iron, metal casting, boiler making, machining, pattern-making and examples of equipment that was created for West Coast industries. Personal stories will be a strong feature of the display.

The 1899 Dispatch steam log winch, owned by Shantytown, is being restored and will become a central feature in the display.



An early photo of the Dispatch Foundry and a steam log winch which is being used as a model for the created foundry.



Restoration of the Steam Log Winch at Dispatch Foundry.

The project is supported by a \$500,000 grant from Pub Charity however further assistance is also being sought to complete the full project.



Re-introducing sluice gun demonstrations

Another feature recently revived within Shantytown is the operation of the sluice gun at the gold claim. Re-established as a trial, the demonstrations are held four times daily at advertised times, and are proving popular with visitors.



Long serving Shantytown staff member Kevin Hill demonstrates the sluice.



Redevelopment project team members Dave McMillan, Ian Tibbles and Jackie Gurden watch the operation of the sluice.

If you'd like more information or to get involved in **the new Shantytown experience** contact:

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