

Petroleum Exploration And Production Interpretative Centre Opens In South Australia

The Penola Hydrocarbon Centre, located in the town of Penola in the South East (Otway Basin) region of South Australia, was officially opened at the end of 1998, by Geoff Wearne, Manager Production for Boral Energy Resources Ltd.

The centre is an initiative of the local branch of the National Trust. Planning and design for the centre commenced in February 1995, under the guidance of Mr Andrew Eastick, the local branch chairperson, and Mr George Aldridge, who developed the initial design. Craig Andrae prepared final design of the displays. Major sponsorship was obtained from PIRSA (Petroleum Group) and Boral Energy Resources Ltd, (\$9000 each) with Wattle Range Council, Epic Energy, Oil Company of Australia, Lakes Oil NL, Cultus Petroleum NL, the State History Centre, Exchange Printers Mt Gambier, Gearhart,

Hughes Christensen Company, Rinnai Australia Pty Ltd and Geco Prakla also providing assistance. The display panels were produced by PIRSA and BORAL drafting departments, with substantial donations of equipment, drill bits etc. from the industry.

The centre is located within the Penola Tourist Information Centre at 27 Arthur Street, and is staffed by the local council. The Penola Hydrocarbon Centre complements the adjacent John Riddoch District Interpretive Centre, and other local tourist attractions, including both the Mary McKillop Centre, and the world class Coonawarra wine district. The centre comprises 18 interactive display panels, explaining the whole process of formation, exploration, development, production, processing and end use of the petroleum produced from the Otway Basin region. The displays also address the issues of

environmental protection and aboriginal site protection. The centre has been informally open for about a year and is visited extensively by local school groups and the general public. The displays also include a mock-up drill rig, a touch screen computer with the interactive AIP "Discovery" CD-ROM, and a touch table with various artifacts. The centre is unique in Australia.

The displays in the centre are designed to be easily updated as new exploration occurs, and will be maintained by PIRSA.

For further Information contact the Tourist Information Centre, 27 Arthur St, Penola 5277, Ph (08) 8737 2855 and Fax (08) 8737 2251 or John Morton, Principal Petroleum Geologist, Petroleum SA, PIRSA, GPO BOX 1671, Adelaide SA 5001, Ph (08) 8463 3225.

